

P

P, p /pi:/ **P's, p's or Ps, ps** the 16th letter of the English alphabet —see also **mind one's p's and q's** (MIND²)

p¹ *BrE infml* penny/pence: *This newspaper costs 25p.* —see PENNY (USAGE)

p² *written abbrev for:* 1 page —see also PP 2 participle 3 population 4 (in music) PIANO² 5 *BrE* penny/pence

P *written abbrev for:* PARKING (2)

P45 /,pi: fɔ:ti 'faɪv||-fɔ:rti-/ *n* in Britain, an official document given to a person when they leave a job to show how much money they have earned and how much tax and NATIONAL INSURANCE they have paid during their period of employment. This document must be given to their employer when the person starts a new job.

P60 /,pi: 'sɪksti/ *n* in Britain, an official document given to a person by their employer each year, which shows how much money they have earned and how much tax and NATIONAL INSURANCE they have paid during that year

pa /pɑ:/ *n infml & becoming rare* (used to address one's father)

PA¹ /,pi: 'eɪ/ *n* 1 [C] *BrE* personal assistant; a senior secretary employed to look after and take responsibility for the affairs of just one person: *She's my PA.* —compare SECRETARY 2 [*the*+S] public-address system; an electrically controlled apparatus used for making a speaker clearly heard by large groups of people, e.g. in airports or outside: *The message came over loud and clear over the PA.*

PA² *written abbrev. for:* PENNSYLVANIA

p.a. *written abbrev. for:* PER ANNUM

PAC /pæk/ *n* see POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

PAC 10 /,pæk 'ten/ *n* see PAC TEN

pace¹ /peɪs/ *n* 1 [S] rate or speed in walking, running, advance of a plan, etc., usu. continued over a period of time: *to walk at a slow pace* | *The faster runner set the pace, (=fixed the speed) and the others followed.* | *She works so fast I can't keep pace with her.* (=go as fast as her) 2 [C] a single step in running or walking, or the distance moved in one step: *She finished only a few paces behind the winner.* —compare STEP¹ 3 [C *usu. sing.*] a way that a horse walks or runs: *The natural paces of the horse include the walk, the trot, and the gallop.* 4 **put someone through their paces** to make someone do something in order to show their abilities: *The film director put the new actor through his paces.* 5 **show one's paces** to show one's abilities

pace² *v* 1 [*I+adv/prep*;T] to walk (across) with slow, regular, steady steps, esp. backwards and forwards: *The policeman paced up and down.* | *The lion paced the floor of his cage restlessly.* 2 [T (OFF, OUT)] to measure by taking steps of an equal and known length: *I think the hall is 80 metres long: I'll pace it (out).* 3 [T] to set the speed of movement for: *She knew how fast she was running, because her trainer was pacing her on a bicycle.*

pace³ /'peɪsɪ:, 'pa:keɪ, 'pa:tʃeɪ/ *prep Lat fml, rare* giving proper respect to, but in a polite way disagreeing with: *My own view, pace the last speaker, is that we should sell the property.*

pace bowl-er /'pɑ: bɔ: l/ also **pace man** /'pɑ: mæn/ *n* a player who bowls (BOWL²) the ball fast in cricket

pace-mak-er /'peɪs, meɪkə/ *n* 1 also **pace-set-ter** /-, setə/ *AmE* — a person or animal that sets a speed that others in a race try to equal **b** a person who sets an example for others 2 a small machine fixed inside the heart in order to make weak or irregular heartbeats regular

pach-y-derm /'pækɪdʒ:m||-dʒ:rm/ *n tech* a thick-skinned animal, e.g. the elephant and the RHINOCEROS

pa-cif-ic /pə'sɪfɪk/ *adj fml* 1 helping to cause peace 2 calm; peace-loving — ~ ally /kli/ *adv*

Pacific Day-light Time /,pə'.. 'lɔ: / (abbrev. PDT) the time used in the summer months in the Pacific Time Zone of the US

Pacific North-west /,pə'.. 'nɔ: / [*the*] the area of the US which

includes Washington State, Oregon, and northern California, esp. along the Pacific coast. The area is known for its wild beauty, cliffs, and forests. —compare WEST, WEST COAST

Pacific Ocean /,pə'.. 'oʊ/ also **Pacific** — [*the*] the world's largest ocean, covering one third of the Earth's surface between the CONTINENTS of America to the E and Asia and Australia to the W —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Pacific Standard Time /,pə'.. 'lɔ: / the time used from autumn to spring in the Pacific Time Zone of the US

Pacific Ten /,pə'.. 'tɛn/ *n* see PAC TEN

pac-i-fi-er /'pæsɪfaɪə/ *n* 1 a person who pacifies 2 *AmE* for DUMMY (3)

pac-i-fist /'pæsɪfɪst/ *n* a person who believes that all wars are wrong and refuses to fight in them — **fism** *n* [U]

pac-i-fy /'pæsɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] 1 to make calm, quiet, and satisfied: *to pacify a crying baby* 2 to bring peace to; end war in (a place) — **fication** /,pæsɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Pac-i-no /pə'tʃi:nəʊ/, **Al** /æl/ (1940–) an American actor known for films such as *The Godfather* and *Scarface*

Al Pacino



pack¹ /pæk/ *n* 1 [C] a number of things wrapped or tied together, or put in a case: *Your membership pack includes a membership card, window sticker, rule book, and list of addresses.* | *Send away for your free information pack today.* —see also SIX-PACK 2 [C (of)] esp. *AmE* a PACKET: *a pack of cigarettes* —see USAGE NOTE at PACKET (1) 3 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of wild animals that hunt together, or a

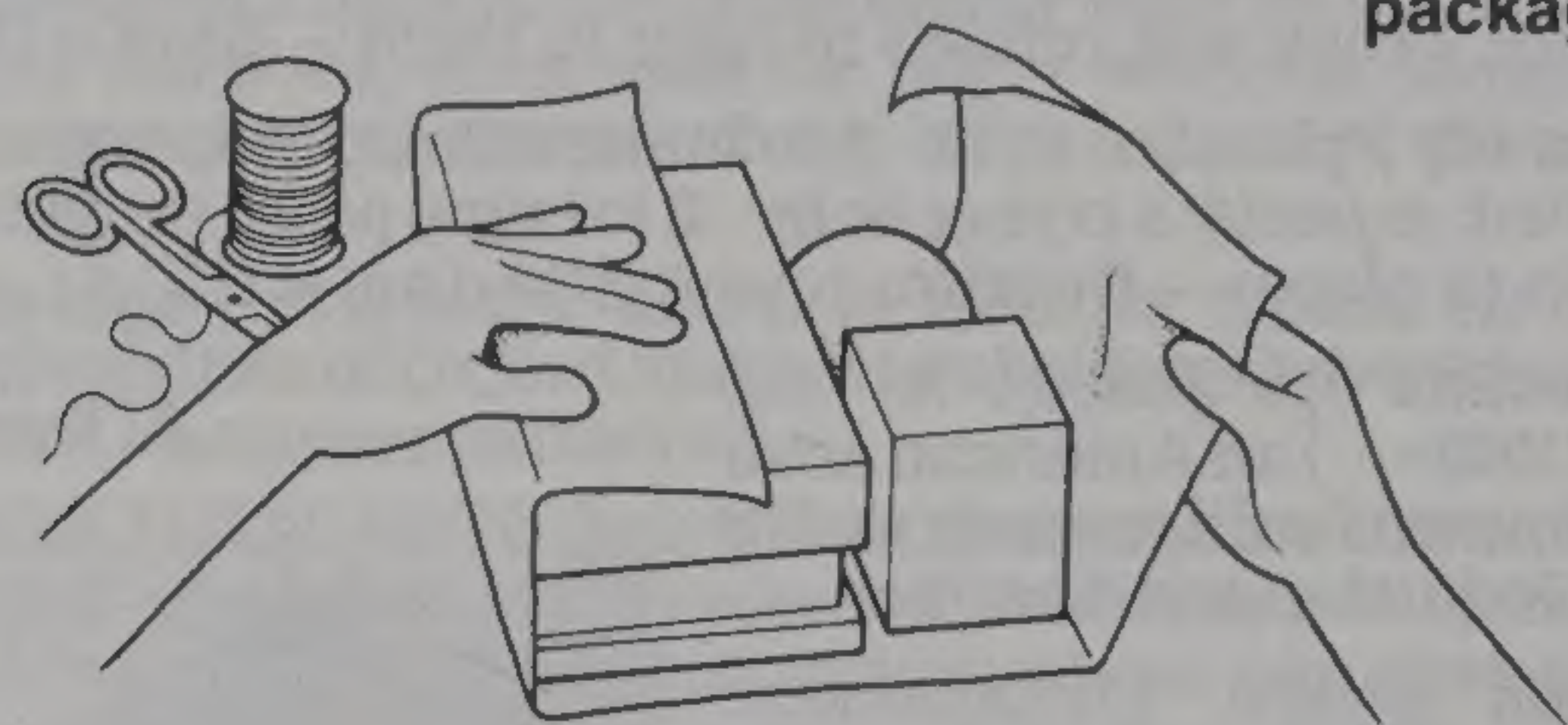
group of dogs trained together for hunting: *The pack of hounds was baying loudly.* | *a ferocious pack of wolves* **b** a group of fighting machines that fight together as one force, esp. SUBMARINES and aircraft **c** (in RUGBY football) the group of players (FORWARDS⁵) whose job is to get possession of the ball for their side **d** a group of CUB SCOUTS or BROWNIE GUIDES **e derog** any collection or group: *a pack of thieves* | *a pack of lies* 4 [C] *BrE* || **deck** *AmE* a complete set of playing cards: *He dealt the pack.* (=divided the cards among the players) 5 [C] a thick mass of soft cloth pressed to a wound to stop bleeding, etc.; COMPRESS —see also ICE PACK 6 [C] a substance, often a special mud or clay, used on the face as a beauty treatment —see also FACE PACK, MUDPACK 7 [C;U] PACK ICE

pack² *v* 1 **a** [I;T (UP)] to put (things, esp. one's belongings) into cases, boxes, etc., for taking somewhere or storing: *We leave tomorrow but I haven't begun to pack yet!* | *He remembered to pack his toothbrush.* | *She takes a packed lunch to school every day.* | *They packed up the contents of their house.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *Have you packed me a razor?* —opposite **unpack** **b** [T] to put things into (a case, box, etc.): *He packed a case/an overnight bag.* | *to pack a tea chest* **c** [I] to be suitable for putting into a container: *This dress packs without creasing.* —see also PACKING 2 [*I+adv/prep*;T+*obj+adv/prep*] to fit, crush, or push into a space: *When the door was opened, people began to pack into the hall.* | *The bus was packed with noisy schoolchildren.* | (fig.) *They tried to pack too much into the holiday* (=do too many things) *and returned exhausted.* —see also PACKED 3 [T] to cover, fill, or surround closely with a protective material: *Pack this cloth round the picnic cups so they won't break.* —see also PACKING 4 [I;T+*obj+adv/prep*] to settle or be driven into a mass: *The wind packed the snow against the wall.* 5 [T] to prepare and put (food) into containers for preserving or selling 6 [T] *derog* to choose members of (a committee or a JURY) favourable to one's own purpose: *He packed the meeting with his own supporters.* 7 [T] *AmE infml* to carry regularly: *to pack a gun* 8 **pack a (hard) punch** *infml* **a** (of a fighter) to be able to hit hard **b** to use very forceful direct language, esp. effectively —see also **send someone packing** (SEND (7)) 9 **pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag** the title and first line of a song sung by British soldiers during the First World War: *Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag and smile, smile, smile...*

pack sbdy./sthg. ↔ **in phr v** [T] *infml* 1 to attract (people) in large numbers: *That film is really packing them in.* 2 *esp. BrE* to stop doing; used *esp.* of something one finds unpleasant, annoying, etc.: *I decided to pack in my university studies and get a job.* | *Pack it in you two; I'm tired of hearing you arguing!*

pack sbdy./sthg. **off phr v** [T (to)] *infml* to send away quickly, *esp.* to avoid trouble: *She packed her son off to school.*

pack up phr v 1 [I] *infml* to finish work: *As business was slack she packed up early.* 2 [I] *infml, esp. BrE* (of a machine) to stop working: *The engine's packed up!* 3 [T] to stop: *He packed up his job after three months.* [+v-ing] *She's packed up smoking at long last.*



package

pack-age¹ /'pækɪdʒ/ *n* [(of)] 1 an amount or *esp.* a number of things packed together firmly; a parcel: *She sent him a large package of books.* 2 a set of related things sold or offered as a unit: *The union has negotiated a new package of benefits with the management.* | *a new software package*

package² *v* [T] 1 [(UP)] to make into or tie up as a package: *She packaged up the old clothes and put them in the cupboard.* 2 to place in a special package before selling: *Those chocolates have been packaged very attractively.* —-ager *n*

package deal /'.../ *n infml* an offer or agreement that includes a number of things all of which must be accepted together

package tour /'.../ also **package hol-i-day** /'.../ *n* a completely planned holiday arranged by a company at a fixed price, which includes travel, hotels, meals, etc. —see also extra information on page 632

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Many people take package holidays abroad, and there are all kinds of tours to suit different people. However, the popular image of a package tour is of a cheap holiday to a place by the sea in southern Europe (*esp.* Spain). Many jokes are made about package holidays, *esp.* about delayed flights, poor quality hotels which serve poor food, and hotels which are a long way from the sea and are not finished: *We went on a package tour this year; a fortnight in Gatwick Airport. It was miles from the beach, but at least it had a roof!* ◀

pack-ag-ing /'pækɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* [U] material used for packing products: *Complicated packaging increases the price of food.*

pack an-i-mal /'.../ *n* an animal, such as a horse (**pack-horse**), used for carrying things on its back

packed /pækt/ *adj* (of a room, building, etc.) full of people; CROWDED: *a packed theatre*

packed lunch /'.../ *n* a cold midday meal of sandwiches (SANDWICH¹), fruit, sweets or other things, packed into a box or parcel and taken with you in the morning to be eaten later. Packed lunches are often given to school children, or people staying at a hotel who are going out on a full day trip.

packed-out /'.../ *adj* [F] *infml, esp. BrE* (of a room, building, etc.) completely full of people

pack-er /'pækə/ *n* a person who packs, such as a person who works where food is put into tins, etc., for preserving b a person employed to pack the furniture, clothing, etc., of people moving from one house to another

pack-et /'pækɪt/ *n* 1 [(of)] also **pack** *esp. AmE* — a small parcel; a number of things tied or put together into a small container: *a packet of envelopes/cigarettes/sugar*

► **USAGE** Both **pack** and **packet** are used in *AmE*; packets are *usu.* smaller than packs: *a packet of seeds* | *a packet of sugar* (containing one serving); *a pack of cigarettes* ◀

2 [*usu. sing.*] *sl* a large amount of money: *That car cost me a packet.* 3 also **packet boat** /'.../ — a boat that carries mail and *usu.* passengers at regular times between places 4 **catch/cop/get/stop a packet** *BrE sl* to get into serious trouble or receive a heavy punishment

packet of three /'.../ *n BrE infml* a small packet containing three CONDOMS

packet-switch-ing /'.../ *n* [U] a method of sending DATA (=information stored on a computer) on telephone lines that breaks long messages into pieces (packets) and puts them together again when they are received. It is faster than older methods, and allows many users on a network at the same time.

pack ice /'.../ *n* [U] sea ice crushed together into a large floating mass

pack-ing /'pækɪŋ/ *n* [U] 1 the act of putting things in cases or boxes: *I'll do my packing the night before we leave.* 2 protective material for packing things: *The price of the books includes postage and packing.*

packing case /'.../ *n* a large strong wooden box in which heavy articles are packed to be sent elsewhere

pack rat /'.../ *n* 1 a large RAT which collects and stores various things, carrying them in its fat cheeks 2 *AmE* someone who collects and stores things for a long time, *esp.* unneeded things

pact /pækt/ *n* a solemn agreement, *esp.* between opposing groups or nations: *The two opposition parties made an electoral pact.* (=agreed to work together in the election) [+to-v] *a pact between the management and the union leaders to restrict salary increases* —compare CONVENTION (3), TREATY (1)

Pac Ten /'pæk 'ten/ also **Pacific Ten, Pac 10** — *n* [U] a group of ten university FOOTBALL (2) teams from the area of the US along the Pacific coast who play against each other

pad¹ /pæd/ *n* 1 anything made of or filled with soft material to protect something or make it more comfortable, or to fill out a shape: *Put a clean pad of cotton over the wound.* —see also SHOULDER PAD; see picture at CRICKET 2 a number of sheets of paper fastened together, used for writing letters, drawing pictures, etc.: *a writing pad* 3 a piece of material made wet with ink for pressing onto a marker; INKPAD 4 the *usu.* thick-skinned fleshy underpart of the foot of some four-footed animals: *The dog had a thorn in its pad.* 5 *tech* the large floating leaf of certain water plants such as the WATER LILY 6 a LAUNCH PAD 7 *AmE* a SANITARY TOWEL 8 *rather old-fash sl* one's house or flat: *I'm going over to his pad this evening.*

pad² *v* -dd- [T] 1 to protect, shape, or make more comfortable by covering or filling with soft material. In cricket, batsmen (BATSMAN) wear special pads to protect their legs: *a coat with padded shoulders* | *a padded cell* (=room with soft walls) *in a psychiatric hospital* 2 [(OUT)] to make (a sentence, speech, etc.) longer by adding unnecessary words: *a speech padded (out) with amusing anecdotes*

pad³ *v* -dd- [I+adv/prep] to walk steadily and *usu.* softly, with the foot flat on the ground: *John's dog padded patiently along beside him as he walked.* | *The little boy padded down the hall to his parents' bedroom.*

pad-ding /'pædɪŋ/ *n* [U] material used to PAD² something: *the padding in my coat/in your speech*

Pad-ding-ton¹ /'pædɪŋtən/ one of the mainline railway stations in London —see colour map on page 817

Paddington² also **Paddington Bear** /'.../ — the main character in the stories for children about a toy bear from Peru who is lost at Paddington Station and goes to live with an English family.

pad-dle¹ /'pædl/ *n* 1 [C] a short pole with a wide flat blade at one end or (if a **double paddle**) at both ends, used for moving a small boat (*esp.* a CANOE) along. It is used freely and not held in position on the side of the boat. —compare OAR 2 [C] anything shaped like this, such as a tool like a flat

Paddington Bear

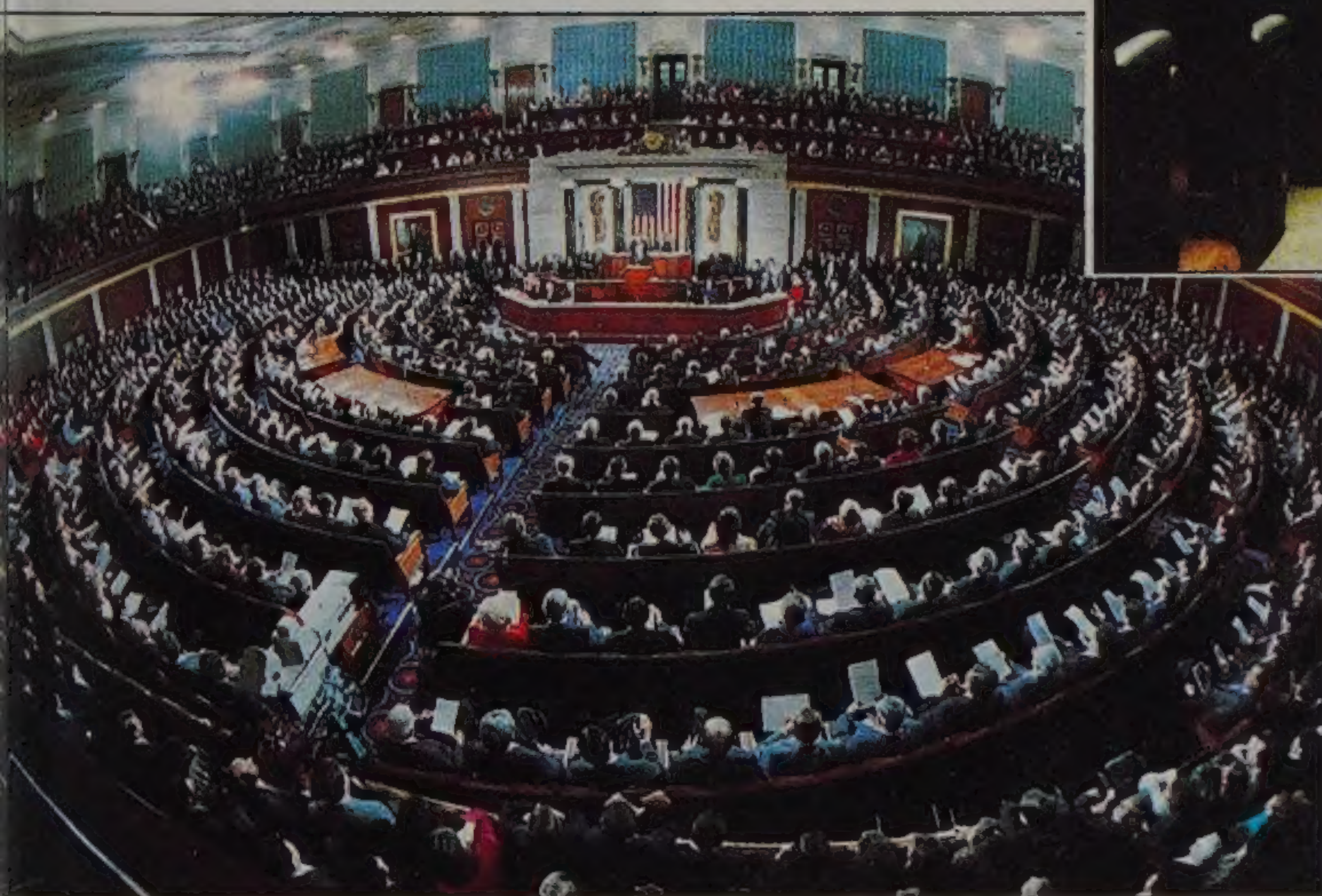




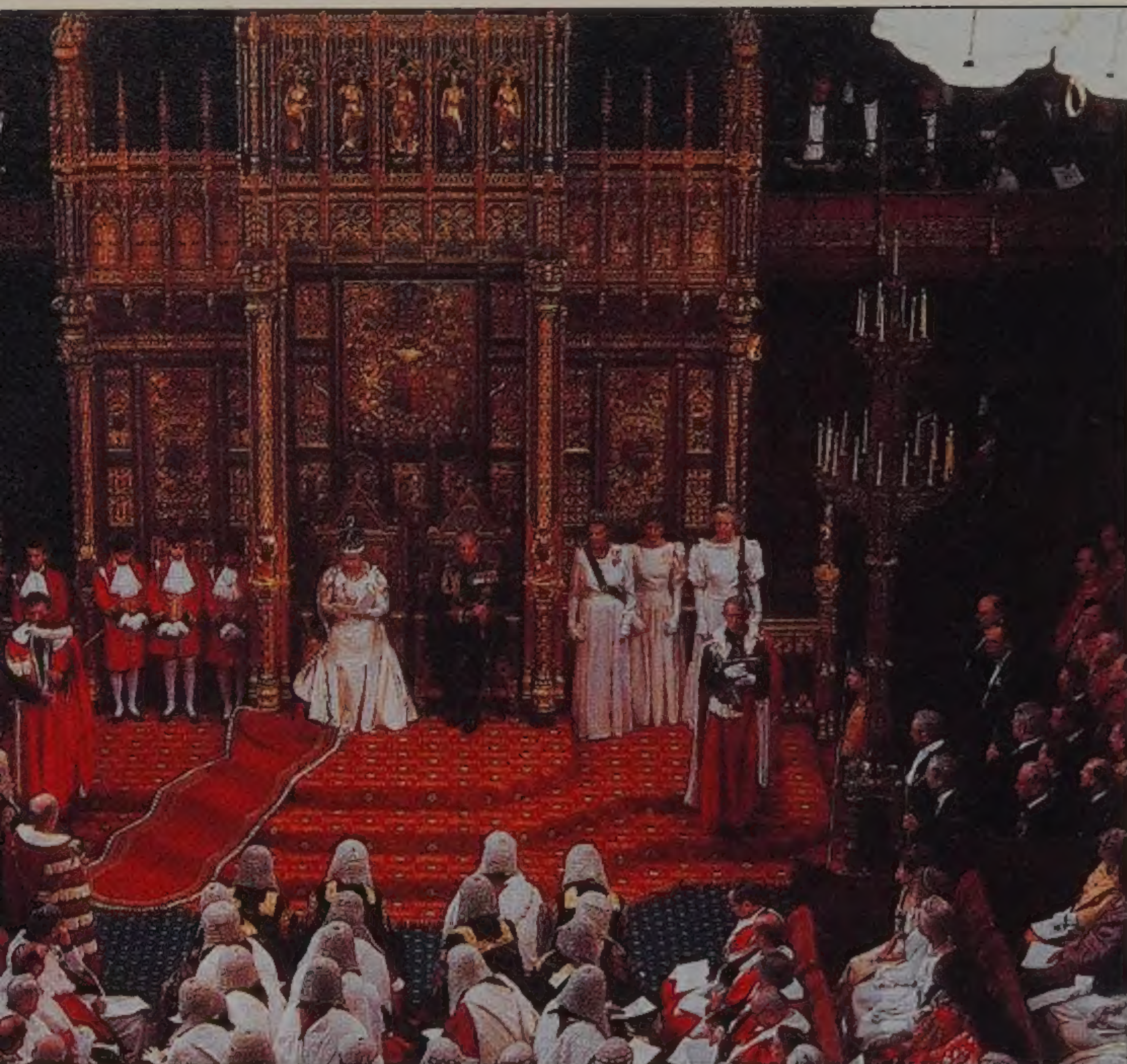
the House of Lords



the House of Commons



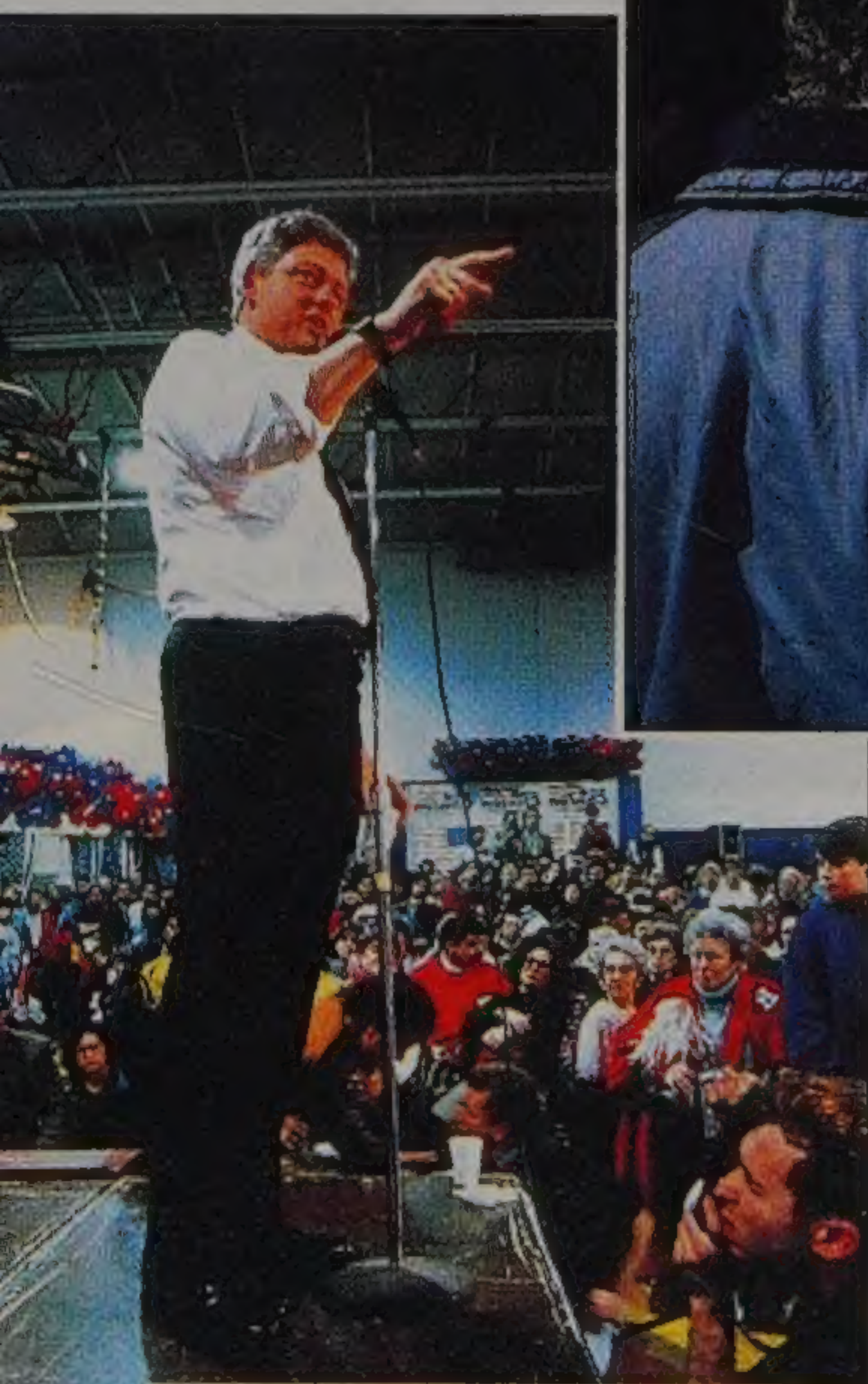
the House of Representatives in the US



Every year a ceremony called the STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT takes place at the Houses of Parliament where the Queen officially opens Parliament

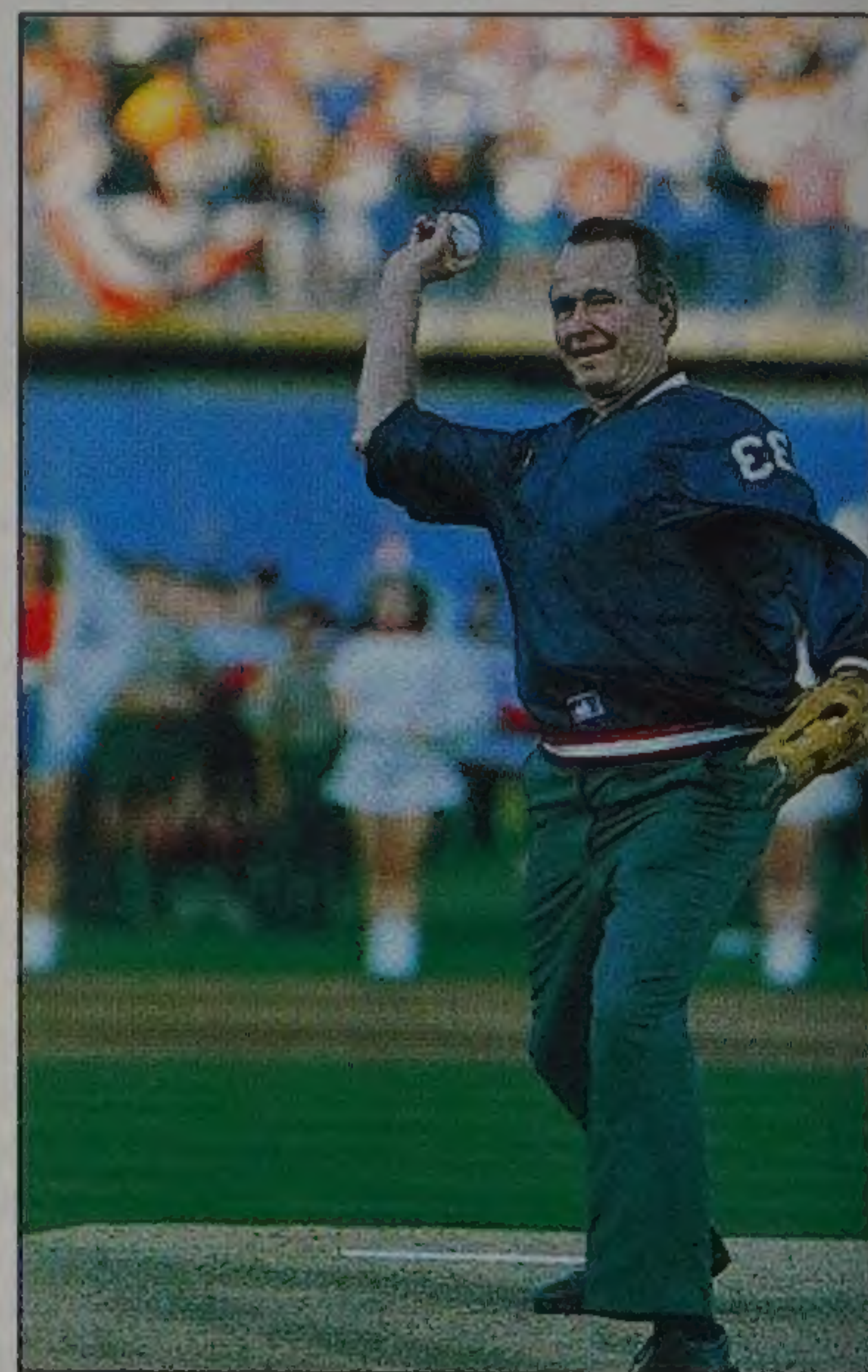


John Major outside 10 Downing Street, the official home of the British Prime Minister



A British politician talking to people in the street to try to get their votes during an election campaign

Bill Clinton at a US political rally in 1992



George Bush throwing a baseball onto the field to start the first game of the World Series



The US President, Bill Clinton, and his wife Hillary



polling booths (places where people go to vote in an election) (voting booths *AmE*)

spoon, used for mixing food **b** one of the wide blades used on the wheel of a PADDLE STEAMER **3** *AmE* a small wide flat BAT¹ (1), used esp. in TABLE TENNIS **4** [S] an act or period of walking about in water which is not at all deep: *to go for a paddle in the sea* —see also DOG PADDLE

paddle² *v* **1** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to move (a small light boat, esp. a CANOE) through water, using one or more paddles —compare ROW¹ **2** [I] to swim as a dog or duck does **3** [I] to walk about in water which is not at all deep: *children paddling in the sea* —compare WADE **4** [T] *AmE infml* to strike with the open hand in punishing **5** *paddle one's own canoe infml* to depend on oneself and no one else

paddle steam-er /'pædʒə/ *BrE* || **side-wheeler** or **stern-wheeler** *AmE*— *n* a steamship which is pushed forward by a pair of large wheels (**paddle wheels**) at the sides or one large wheel at the back

padd-ling pool /'pædʒəl/ || usu. **baby pool** or **wading pool** *AmE*— *n* **1** a small area of water which is not at all deep, where children paddle, usu. in a park **2** a plastic container that can be filled with water, for children to play in

pad-dock /'pædɒk/ *n* **1** a small field near a house or STABLES where horses are kept or exercised **2** a grassy place where horses are brought together before a race so that people may see them

pad-dy¹ /'pædi/ also **paddy field** /'pædɪ-/ , **rice paddy**— *n* a field where rice is grown in water

paddy² *n* [S] *BrE infml* a state of bad temper

Paddy *n infml*, sometimes derog an Irishman (a short form of Patrick, a common name in Ireland)

paddy wag-on /'pædɪ wɑːŋ/ *n infml AmE* PATROL WAGON

Pad-e-rew-ski /'pædə'refski/, **Jan** /jæn||jɑːn/ (1860–1941) a Polish piano player of CLASSICAL music who became the first PRIME MINISTER of Poland after the First World War

pad-lock /'pædlɒk||-lɒk/ *n* a lock that can be put on and removed, by means of a U-shaped metal bar, used for locking gates, bicycles, cupboards, etc. —**padlock** *v* [T]: *to padlock the gate*

pa-dre /'pædri, -reɪ/ *n infml* (often cap.) a priest, esp. one in the Armed Forces; CHAPLAIN: *Hello, Padre!* —see PRIEST (USAGE)

pae-an /'piːən/ *n lit* a joyous song of praise, thanks, or victory

paed-e-rast *BrE* || **pederast** *AmE* /'pedərəst/ *tech n* a man who has sex with a boy —~ **rasty** *n* [U]

pae-di-a-tri-cian *BrE* || **pediatrician** *AmE* /'piːdiə'triʃən/ *n* a doctor who specializes in paediatrics

pae-di-at-rics *BrE* || **pediatrics** *AmE* /'piːdi'ætriks/ *n* [U] the branch of medicine concerned with children and their illnesses

pae-do-phile *BrE* || **pedophile** *AmE* /'piːdɒfaɪl/ *n* a person who is sexually attracted to young children

pa-el-la /paɪ'elə||paː-/ *n* [U] a Spanish dish of rice cooked with pieces of meat, fish, and vegetables

pae-o-ny /'piːəni/ *n* a PEONY

pa-gan /'peɪɡən/ *n* **1** derog a person (esp. in ancient times) who is not a believer in any of the chief religions of the world, and esp. not in one's own religion; HEATHEN: *They regard us all as pagans.* —compare ATHEIST, HEATHEN **2** (used esp. of the ancient Greeks and Romans) a person who believes in many gods —**pagan** *adj*: *pagan tribes/beliefs* —~ **ism** *n* [U]

Pag-a-ni-ni /'pæɡə'nɪni/, **Nic-co-lò** /'nɪkələʊ/ (1782–1840) Italian VIOLIN player and writer of music, of international fame

page¹ /peɪdʒ/ *n* **1** one side or both sides of a sheet of paper in a book, newspaper, etc.: *Turn over; there's a picture on the next page.* | *Turn to page 44.* | *Someone has torn a page out of this book.* | *I took/made several pages of notes on his talk.* | *a dog-eared page* | *a blank/fresh/new page* | *the front page/sports pages of the newspaper* **2** *lit* an important event or period: *These years will be remembered as some of the finest pages in our country's history.*

page² *n* **1** also **pageboy**— a boy servant in a hotel, club, etc., usu. uniformed **b** a boy attendant on the BRIDE at a wedding **2** a boy in former times who was in training to be a KNIGHT (noble soldier) **3** *now rare* a boy in service to a person of high rank

page³ *v* [T] (in a public place) to call aloud for (someone

who is wanted for some reason), esp. through a LOUD-SPEAKER: *I couldn't find my friend at the airport, so I had her paged.*

pag-eant /'pædʒənt/ *n* **1** [C] a splendid public show or ceremony, usu. out of doors, in which there is a procession of people in rich dress or in which historical scenes are acted: *a village pageant moving through the streets on floats* | (fig.) *the rich pageant of history* **2** [U] splendid show that looks grand but has no meaning or power

pag-eant-ry /'pædʒəntri/ *n* [U] splendid show of ceremonial grandness with people in beautiful dress: *the pageantry of a royal wedding*

page-boy /'peɪdʒbɔɪ/ *n* **1** a PAGE² (1) **2** a style of cutting women's hair, in which the hair reaches down to the neck, has its ends turned under, and is cut in a long FRINGE¹ (2) at the front

pa-ger /'peɪdʒə/ *n AmE* for BLEEPER

page three girl /'peɪtʃi-/ *n BrE* a young and attractive woman, usu. with large breasts, whose photograph appears on the third page of the *Sun*, a British newspaper

pa-go-da /pə'gəʊdə/ *n* a temple (esp. Buddhist or Hindu) often built on several floors or levels with a decorative roof at each level

Pah-la-vi /'pɑːləvi||'pæl-/ , **Mo-ham-med Re-za** /məʊ'hæməd 'rɪzə||-rɪː'zɑː/ (1918–80) the Shah of Iran from 1941 to 1979. He was forced to leave his country during a period of political trouble and died soon afterwards.

paid /peɪd/ *written abbrev. pd past tense and participle of PAY*

paid po-lit-i-cal broad-cast /'peɪd pɒlɪtɪkəl brɒd kɑːst/ *AmE* for PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST

paid-up /'peɪd-ʌp/ *adj* having paid in full, esp. so as to continue being a member: *a paid-up member of the club* —compare PAY **up**

pail /peɪl/ *n esp. AmE* **1** *esp. AmE* a bucket for carrying liquids: *a milk pail* | *a slop pail* (=for dirty water and liquid waste) **2** also **pail-ful** /-fʊl/— the amount a pail will hold: *two pailfuls of water*

pail-lasse /'pæliæs||'pæli'æs/ *n* a PALLIASSE

pain¹ /peɪn/ *n* **1** [U] suffering; great discomfort of the body or mind: *He was in great pain/crying with pain after he broke his arm.* | *His behaviour caused his parents a great deal of pain.* | *The pain eased slightly.* | *to inflict pain on someone* **2** [C] an esp. sharp feeling of suffering or discomfort in a particular part of the body: *a stabbing/severe/nagging pain in my back* | *slight stomach pains* | *She's always complaining of aches and pains.* | (fig., *sl*) *You give me a pain!* (=You annoy me.) —compare ACHE²; see also GROWING PAINS **3** [S] also **pain in the neck** /'peɪn ɪn ðə nek/— *sl* a person, thing, or situation that makes one angry and tired, but is difficult to avoid; NUISANCE: *She's a real pain.* | *It's a pain in the neck having to meet them at the airport.* **4** *on/under pain of fml* at the risk of suffering (some punishment): *They were forbidden to leave, on pain of death.* —see also PAINS

pain² *v* [T] **1** *lit or fml* to cause to feel pain in the mind; hurt: *It pains me to have to leave, but I must.* **2** [*no pass.*] *fml* (of a part of the body) to cause pain to; hurt

Paine /peɪn/, **Thomas** (1737–1809) an American political thinker and writer, born in England. He supported the French Revolution and had to escape from England to France because of this. His most famous books are *The Rights of Man* and *The Age of Reason*.

pained /peɪnd/ *adj* [(at)] displeased or hurt in one's feelings: *She looked rather pained at your remarks.* | *After they had quarrelled there was a pained silence.*

pain-ful /'peɪnfəl/ *adj* causing pain, esp. physical pain: *a painful cut on his thumb* | *Does it still feel painful?* | *It must have been very painful for you tell her about the accident.* | (fig.) *That singer is/sounds absolutely painful!* (=terrible) —~ **ly** *adv*: *It is painfully clear that Tom will fail his exam.* —~ **ness** *n* [U]

pain-kill-er /'peɪn,kɪlə/ also **analgesic med**— *n* a medicine which lessens or removes pain

pain-less /'peɪnləs/ *adj* **1** causing no pain: *painless childbirth* **2** *infml* needing no effort or hard work: *a painless way of learning a foreign language* —~ **ly** *adv*

pains /peɪnz/ *n* [P] **1** trouble; effort: *We gave the taxi driver*

something extra for his pains. | She went to great pains/took pains with her work. (=made an effort) **2** be at pains to do something: **a** to take great trouble about something: *The teacher was at (great) pains to make sure that we all understood.* **b** to be particularly careful to do something: *He was at pains to point out my mistake.*

pains-tak-ing /'peɪnz,tetkɪŋ/ *adj* very careful and thorough: *painstaking care* | *She is not very clever but she is painstaking.* — *~ly adv*

paint¹ /peɪnt/ *n* [U] **1** liquid colouring matter which can be put or spread on a surface to make it a certain colour: *a tin/a tube of green paint* | *oil paint* | *gloss paint* | *Wet Paint* (=a warning sign placed near a freshly painted surface) **2** *old use* colouring matter used on the face; MAKE-UP — see also GREASEPAINT, PAINTS; compare DYE

paint² *v* **1** [I;T] to put paint on (a surface): *I wear old trousers when I'm painting.* | *The ceiling needs painting.* [+obj+adj] *I painted the door blue.* **2** **a** [T] to make by using paint: *to paint pictures* **b** [T] to make a picture of: *She painted the view from her hotel window.* **c** [I] to paint pictures: *His wife paints.* | *She paints in oils/in water-colours.* **3** [I;T] *old use derog* to colour (the face) with MAKE-UP: *painted prostitutes* **4** [T] to describe in clear well-chosen words: *His letters paint a wonderful picture of his life in Burma.* **5** [T] to put medicine on (esp. the throat) with a brush **6** **paint the town red** *infml* to go out and have an extremely good time, usu. to CELEBRATE something — see also **not as black as one is painted** (BLACK¹)

paint-box /'peɪntbɒks/ *n* a (usu. metal) box containing hard blocks of paint which can be mixed with water, often used by children

paint-brush /'peɪntbrʌʃ/ *n* a brush for spreading paint on a surface — see picture at BRUSH

Painted Desert /'peɪntɪd dɛzət/ *n* [the] an area in the American state of Arizona, east of the Little Colorado River, known for its red, brown, and purple rock surfaces on small and large PLATEAUS (=stretches of level land higher than the surrounding land)

paint-er¹ /'peɪntə/ *n* **1** a person whose job is painting houses, rooms, etc. **2** a person who paints pictures; ARTIST: *a portrait/landscape painter* | *a good painter*

painter² *n tech* a rope for tying a small boat to a ship or to a post on land

paint-ing /'peɪntɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the act of painting a houses, rooms, etc. **b** pictures: *I've always admired Monet's early painting.* **2** [C] a painted picture: *to hang a painting*

paints /peɪnts/ *n* [P] a set of small tubes or CAKES (=dry flat pieces) of paint of different colours, usu. in a paintbox, used for making pictures: *a set of oil paints*

paint-work /'peɪntwɜ:k/ *n* [U] a painted surface: *some damage to the paintwork on my car*

pair¹ /peə/ *n* **pairs or pair** **1** [(of)] something made up of two parts that are alike and are joined and used together: *There's a clean pair of trousers on your bed.* | *a pair of scissors* — see USAGE **2** [(of)] two things that are alike or of the same kind, and are usu. used together: *Is that a new pair of shoes?* | *a beautiful pair of candlesticks* | *a pair (of kings)* (=two playing cards of the same value) | *I've lost my gloves — have you got a spare pair?* | *I've only got one pair of hands!* (=I can't do all this work) **3** [+sing./pl. v] two people closely connected, esp. a COUPLE¹ (2): *a pair of dancers* | *The happy pair is/are going to Spain after their wedding.* | *The children walked in pairs.* (=in twos) **4** [+sing./pl. v] a two animals, male and female, that stay together for a long time **b** two horses that pull a cart, etc.: *to drive a carriage and pair* — see also TEAM¹ (2) **5** *taboo sl* a woman's breasts

▷ USAGE Some words like **trousers** and **scissors** are used like plural nouns, but they are not thought of as having number. So you can say *These scissors/My other trousers are old*, but the actual number of items (one or more) can only be known from the situation. You cannot use words to show the number of these items unless you also use **pair** or **pairs**: *a pair of scissors* | *both pairs of trousers* | *three pairs of trousers*. **Pair** is also used for things like **shoes** which can be talked about separately or two at a time. You can say *one shoe/both shoes* as well as *a pair of shoes/five pairs of shoes*. Any word in this dictionary which is followed by the note "see PAIR (USAGE)" can be used

in the expression **a pair of X**. — compare BRACE; see COUPLE (USAGE)◀

pair² *v* [I;T (OFF, UP)] to (cause to) form into one or more pairs: *Birds often pair in the spring.* | *We tried to pair Jane and David off/to pair Jane off with David.* | *He was paired (up) with my sister in the tennis tournament.*

pais-ley /'peɪzli/ *n* [U] (sometimes *cap.*) cloth with curved coloured patterns (from the town Paisley in Scotland, where the pattern was first made on a large scale): *a paisley skirt*

Paisley, the Reverend Ian /'i:ən/ (1926–) Northern Irish PROTESTANT political leader who speaks very strongly in favour of Northern Ireland remaining part of the United Kingdom, and against the IRA. He is known for his strong, emotional way of speaking about religious and political matters.

Pai-ute /paɪ'ute/ *n* [C; the +P] (a member of) a Native American people living in the SW of the US — see also NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

pa-ja-mas /pə'dʒɑ:məz/ *n* [P] *esp. AmE* for PYJAMAS — see PAIR (USAGE) — **pajama** *adj* [A]

Pak-i /'pæki/ *n* *BrE derog* a person from Pakistan, or one born in Britain whose parents were from Pakistan; an offensive word

Paki bash-ing /'pæki'baʃɪŋ/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* attacks and other violence against people of Asian origin in Britain, usu. by young people with RIGHT-WING opinions

Paki shop /'pækiʃɒp/ *n* *BrE derog* a small local shop, often on a street corner, run by Asians of any country

Pa-kis-tan /'pɑ:kɪ'stɑ:n, 'pækɪ'stæn/ a country, officially called the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, bordered by India to the E, Afghanistan to the N and W, Iran to the SW, and the Arabian Sea to the S; capital Islamabad; population 108,678,000 (1989) — **tani** /'pɑ:kɪ'stɑ:ni, 'pæk-||-'stɑ:ni/ *n, adj*

pal¹ /pæl/ *n infml* **1** a close friend: *an old pal of mine* | *We've been pals for years!* **2** *esp. AmE, ScE* (often used in unfriendly speech to a man): *Listen, pal, I don't want you talking to my sister any more, see?* — see also PALLY

pal² *v*

pal up *phr v* -ll- [I (with)] *BrE infml* to become friends

Pal *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of food for dogs, made by Pedigree Petfoods

pal-ace /'pæləs/ *n* **1** [C] (often *cap. as part of a name*) a large grand house where a ruling king or queen, or a British BISHOP or ARCHBISHOP, officially lives: *Buckingham Palace* — see HOUSE (USAGE) **2** [C] any large splendid house: *The nobles of Florence built splendid palaces.* | *His home is a palace compared to ours!* — compare STATELY HOME **3** [C] *esp. BrE* a large building used for public amusement: *Some cinemas used to be called Picture Palaces.* — see also PALATIAL

Palace [the] *BrE* **1** *infml* Buckingham Palace **2** the Queen (or King) and the royal officials: *a Palace spokesman* | *The Palace won't like all this gossip.*

Palace of West-min-ster /'pæləs wɛstmɪnstə/ [the] the official name of the Houses of Parliament, London. The full title, not so frequently used, is the **New Palace of Westminster** (from the name of a royal palace which used to stand where the Houses of Parliament are now).

palace rev-o-lu-tion /'pæləs rɛvəluʃən/ *n* the removal from office of a king, president, etc., usu. by those just beneath him/her in rank

pal-a-din /'pælədɪn/ *n* **1** any of 12 men of high rank under Charlemagne (742–814) **2** *lit* someone who is strongly in favour of something, esp. in politics

pal-ais /'pæleɪ, 'pæleɪ/ *infml* 'pæleɪ/ also **palais de danse** /'pæleɪ də 'dɑ:ns/ *n* **palais** /'pæleɪz/ *BrE* (often *cap.*) a large public hall used for dancing

pal-an-quin /'pælən'kɪn/ *n* a vehicle like a box with a seat or bed inside it for one person, carried on poles, formerly used in India and other eastern countries; the person carried would probably be rich or important

pal-a-ta-ble /'pælətəbəl/ *adj* **1** pleasant to taste, though not special: *a palatable meal* **2** pleasant: *She didn't find my suggestion at all palatable.* — opposite **unpalatable** — *bly adv*

pal-a-tal /'pælətəl/ *n, adj tech* (a consonant sound) made by

putting the tongue against or near the **HARD PALATE**

pal-ate /'pælɪt/ *n* **1** [C] the **ROOF** (=top inside part) of the mouth — see also **CLEFT PALATE**, **HARD PALATE**, **SOFT PALATE** **2** [C (for) *usu. sing.*] the ability to judge good food or wine: *She has a good palate for wine.* **3** [C; U (for)] a taste or liking: *His novels are too sad for my palate.* | *Spicy food suits my palate best.*

▷ **USAGE** Many people would use **taste** or **liking** rather than **palate**, as **palate** is a more formal word. ◁

pa-la-tial /pə'leɪʃəl/ *adj* (*usu. of buildings*) like a palace; grand and splendid: *a palatial hotel* — *~ly adv*

pa-lat-i-nate /pə'lətɪnɪt/ *n* *old use (often cap.)* an area formerly ruled over by a man of high rank (**Palatine**, **Count Palatine**) who was the representative of a higher ruler: *the Rhine Palatinate*

pa-la-ver /pə'la:və/ *n* **1** [U] *infml* continuous foolish meaningless talk: *What's all the palaver about?* **2** [U] *infml* trouble, inconvenience, or anxiety (over small matters); **BOTHER**; **FUSS**: *all the palaver of booking tickets and renewing my passport* **3** [C] *rare* a long talk about something important, esp. between opposing leaders

pale¹ /peɪl/ *adj* **1** (of a person's face or skin) having less than the usual amount of colour; rather white: *You're looking rather pale; are you ill?* | *a pale complexion* **2** (of colours or light) not bright: *pale blue* | *pale sunshine* — compare **DEEP**¹ (5), **LIGHT**³ (2) — *~ly* /'peɪl-li/ *adv* — *~ness n* [U]

pale² *v* [I] **1** to become pale: *He paled at the sight of the blood.* **2** [(before, beside)] to seem less important, clever, beautiful, etc., when compared with: *All other anxieties paled into insignificance beside the possibility of war.* | *This year's profits pale by/in comparison with the huge profits we made last year.*

pale³ *n* **1** a **PALING** **2** beyond the pale beyond the limit of proper behaviour: *She went a bit beyond the pale bringing six uninvited people to my party!*

pale ale /,pə'leɪ/ *n* [U] **LIGHT ALE**

pale-face /'peɪlfeɪs/ *n* *derog & humor* (the name said to have been used formerly by Native Americans for) a white person

pal-e-og-ra-phy /,pæli'ɒgrəfi/ *n* [U] the study of ancient writing — **pher n**

pal-e-o-lith-ic /,pæliəʊ'lɪθɪk/ *adj* (*often cap.*) of the earliest period of the **STONE AGE**, when people made stone weapons and tools: *a paleolithic axe* — compare **NEOLITHIC**

pal-e-on-tol-o-gy /,pæliən'tɒlədʒi/ *n* [U] the study of **FOSSILS** — **gist n**

Pal-es-tine /'pælɪstəɪn/ an area covering parts of modern Israel, holy to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It has been the cause of fierce argument and fighting for many years between Israel and the Arab states.

Palestine Lib-e-ra-tion Or-ga-ni-za-tion /,pə'leɪstɪn lɪb-ɪ'reɪʃən/ *n* [the] see **PLO**

Pal-e-stin-i-an /,pælɪ'stɪniən/ *adj* a *usu.* Muslim person from Palestine. Most Palestinians are Muslims, but some are Christians.

pal-ette /'pælɪt/ *n* **1** a board with a curved edge and a hole for the thumb, on which a painter mixes colours **2 tech** the particular colours used by a painter or for a picture

palette knife /'pælɪt naɪf/ *n* a thin bendable knife with a rounded end, used by painters to mix colours, and in cookery

pal-frey /'pɒ:lfrɪ/ *n* *old use & poet* a horse trained for riding, esp. for use by a woman

Pa-li Can-on /'pɑ:li,kænən/ *[the]* all of the teachings of the Buddha, as written down in the Pali language, starting in the first century BC.

pal-i-mo-ny /'pælɪməni/ *n* [U] *AmE* money that a man or woman has been ordered to pay regularly to a former partner when they separate after having lived together without being married

pal-imp-sest /'pælɪmpsest/ *n* an ancient piece of writing material on which the original writing was rubbed out, not always completely, so that it could be used again

pal-in-drome /'pælɪndrəʊm/ *n* a word, phrase, etc., that reads the same backwards as it does forwards: *The words "deed" and "level" are palindromes.*

pal-ing /'peɪlɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] also **pale**— a pointed piece of wood used with others in making a fence **2** [U] **palings**

pal-ings /'peɪlɪŋz/ *n* [P] a fence made out of palings: *He jumped over the palings.*

pal-i-sade /,pælɪ'seɪd/ *n* **1** a fence made of strong pointed iron or wooden poles, *usu.* used for defence in past centuries **2** also **palisades pl.**— *esp. AmE* a line of high straight cliffs *esp. along a river or beside the sea*

pal-ish /'peɪlɪʃ/ *adj* rather pale

pall¹ /pɒ:l/ *v* [I (on, upon)] to become uninteresting or unattractive, esp. through being done, used, heard, etc., too often or for too long: *I find his books begin to pall (on me) after a while* — *they're all very similar.*

pall² *n* **1** [S (of)] something heavy or dark which covers or seems to cover: *a pall of darkness* | *A pall of smoke hung over the burning city.* **2** [C] a large piece of cloth spread over a **COFFIN** (=a box in which a dead body is carried) **3** [C] *AmE* a **COFFIN** with a body inside

Pal-la-di-an /pə'leɪdiən/ *adj tech* **1** of an Italian 16th-century style of building **2** of an English 18th-century **CLASSICAL** (1) style of building

Pal-la-di-um /pə'leɪdiəm/ *[the]* the **LONDON PALLADIUM**

pall-bear-er /'pɒ:l,bɛəreɪ/ *n* a person who walks beside or helps to carry a **COFFIN** at a funeral

pal-let /'pælɪt/ *n* **1** a large metal plate or flat wooden frame for lifting and storing heavy goods, used with a **FORKLIFT TRUCK** and having a hole into which the fork can be fixed **2 AmE, old-fash** a **STRAW MATTRESS** (=part of a bed that one sleeps on) or temporary bed **3 AmE** for **SKID**² (3)

pal-li-asse, paillassse /'pæliæs/ *n* *old-fash or lit* a thin cloth case filled with **STRAW** for sleeping on

pal-li-ate /'pæliet/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to lessen the unpleasant effects of (illness, suffering, etc.) without removing the cause **2** to make (something) seem less wrong by giving excuses — **-ation** /,pæli'eɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pal-li-a-tive /'pæliətɪv/ *n* [(for)] *fml* something that palliates: *The government's new economic measures are merely palliatives; they don't get to the root of the trouble.*

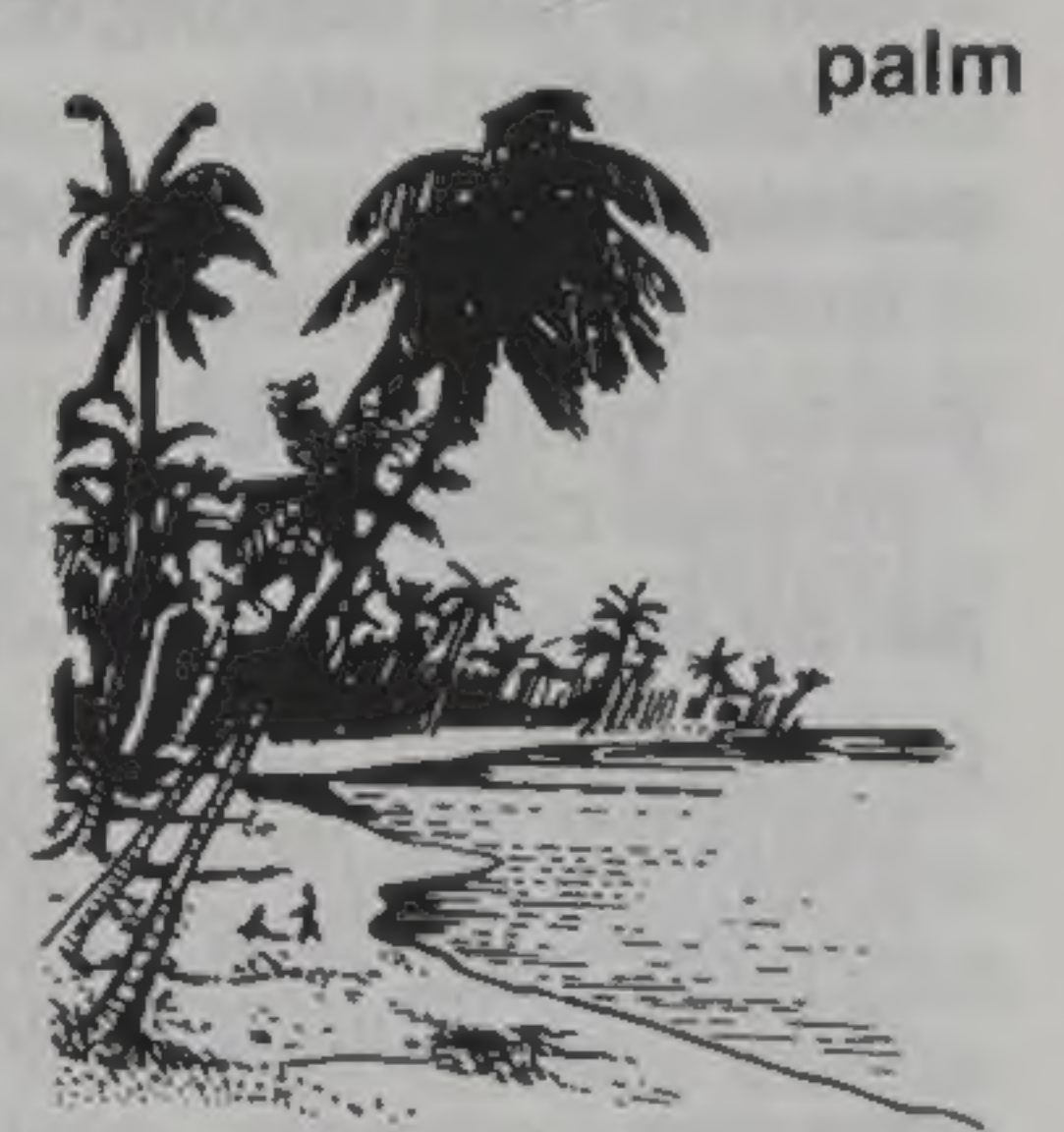
pal-lid /'pælɪd/ *adj* (of the face, skin, etc.) unusually or unhealthily pale; **WAN**: *a pallid complexion* | (fig.) *She gave a pretty pallid (=dull and lifeless) performance.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Pall Mall /,pæl'mæl/ a broad road in central London, between Trafalgar Square and St James's Palace, known formerly as a fashionable place

pal-lor /'pælə/ *n* [S] unhealthy paleness of the skin or face

pal-ly /'pæli/ also **palsy-walsy**— *adj* [F (with)] *infml* having a friendly relationship (with); **FRIENDLY** sometimes used in a disapproving way: *They are very pally.* | *I didn't know you were pally with her.*

palm¹ /pɑ:m/ *n* **1** also **palm tree** /'pɑ:m- /— any of a large family of mainly tropical trees which are *usu.* very tall and have branchless stems and a mass of large leaves at the top — see also **COCONUT**, **DATE**³ **2 bear/ carry off the palm** *fml* to be judged to be the best of all, esp. in some kind of sport, study, or skill



palm² *n* **1** a the surface of the hand between the base of the fingers and the wrist on the side that can be bent inwards — see picture at **HAND b** the part of a **GLOVE** that covers the inside of the hand **2 hold/ have someone in the palm of one's hand** to have complete power over someone — see also **ITCHY PALM**, **cross someone's palm (with silver)** (**CROSS**²), **grease someone's palm** (**GREASE**²)

palm³ *v* [T] to hide in the palm of one's hand, esp. when performing a trick or stealing something: *The magician palmed the coin and suddenly produced it from a boy's ear.*

palm sthg./sbdy. off *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** [(on, onto, as)] to get rid of (something bad or unwanted) by persuading someone that it is acceptable: *The fruit seller palmed off some bad oranges onto the old lady.* | *He tried to palm the painting off as a real Renoir.* — compare **FOB off/on**, **PASS off** (2) **2** [(with)] to persuade (someone) to accept something worthless by lying or some other deception: *They tried to palm me off with an obsolete computer/with some excuse.* — compare **FOB off with**

Palm Beach /, ˈ ˌ / a town in SE Florida, US, which is a tourist centre popular esp. with rich people

Pal-me /'pælmə/, **O-lof** /'əʊləf/ (1927–86) the Prime Minister of Sweden from 1982 until he was killed by an unknown man who shot him in the street in Stockholm

Palm-er /'pɑ:mə/, **Arnold** (1929–) American GOLF player, one of the best of modern times

pal-met-to /pæl'metəʊ/ *n* -tos or -toes a small palm tree with deeply cut leaves, found esp. in the south-eastern US

palm-ist /'pɑ:mɪst/ || 'pɑ:m-, 'pɑ:lm-/ || usu. **palm read-er** /' ˌ ˌ / *AmE*— *n* a person who claims to be able to tell what someone is like, or what their future is, by examining the lines on the palm of their hand —compare FORTUNE-TELLER

palm-ist-ry /'pɑ:mɪstri/ || 'pɑ:m-, 'pɑ:lm-/ also **palm read-ing** /' ˌ ˌ /— *n* [U] the art or practice of a palmist

palm oil /' ˌ ˌ / *n* [U] oil obtained from the nut of an African palm tree

Palm Springs /, ˈ ˌ / a city in the US state of California, east of Los Angeles, known esp. for attracting rich and famous people, and for its GOLF COURSES

Palm Sun-day /, ˈ ˌ / *n* [C;U] (in the Christian church) the Sunday before Easter (from the palm leaves that were spread on the ground in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem). In some churches people who attend the service on Palm Sunday are given a piece of palm leaf folded into the shape of a cross.

palm-y /'pɑ:mi/ || 'pɑ:mi, 'pɑ:lmɪ/ *adj* (esp. of a period in the past) active and successful; PROSPEROUS

Pal-o-mar /'pæləʊmɑ:ʀ/, **Mount** a mountain near San Diego, CA, where the Mount Palomar Observatory is. It has a very large TELESCOPE and other instruments for studying things in space.

pal-o-mi-no /,pælə'mi:nəʊ/ *n* -nos (sometimes cap.) a horse of a golden or cream colour, with a white MANE and tail

pal-pa-ble /'pælpəbəl/ *adj* *fml* 1 (esp. of something bad) easily and clearly known by the senses or the mind; OBVIOUS: *a palpable lie* 2 that can be touched or physically felt; TANGIBLE: *an almost palpable atmosphere of mistrust*. —opposite **impalpable** —*bly* *adv*: *What you say is palpably false*.

pal-pate /pæl'peɪt/ || 'pælpet/ *v* [T] *med* to examine by touching: *The doctor palpated his abdomen*. —**pation** /pæl'peɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pal-pi-tate /'pælpɪteɪt/ *v* [I] 1 *med* (of the heart) to beat fast and irregularly 2 [(with)] *fml* (of a person or the body) to tremble: *He was positively palpitating with excitement*.

pal-pi-ta-tions /,pælpɪ'teɪʃənz/ *n* [P] *med* irregular or unusually fast beating of the heart, caused by illness, too much effort, etc.

pal-sied /'pɔ:lsɪd/ *adj* *old use* weakened by or suffering from palsy: *The cup slipped from his palsied grasp*.

pal-sy /'pɔ:lsɪ/ *n* [U] 1 *old use or med* for PARALYSIS 2 a disease causing trembling of limbs —see CEREBRAL PALSY

pal-sy-wal-sy /,pælzɪ 'wælzɪ/ *adj* *infml* PALLY

pal-try /'pɔ:ltrɪ/ *adj* 1 worthless or worthlessly small; DERISORY: *The management offered us a paltry 3% salary increase*. 2 showing a nasty or ungenerous character; PETTY (2): *What a paltry trick that was to play*.

pam-pas /'pæmpəz, -pəs/ *n* [(the) S] the large wide treeless plains in parts of South America

pampas grass /' ˌ ˌ / *n* [U] tall grass with sharp-edged blades and feathery silver-white flowers

pam-per /'pæmpəʀ/ *v* [T] to pay too much attention to making (someone) comfortable and happy; treat too kindly: *a pampered cat* | (fig.) *Pamper your skin with this new luxurious soap*.

Pam-pers /'pæmpəz/ || -pəʀz/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a type of DISPOSABLE NAPPY

pam-phlet /'pæmfɪlɪt/ *n* a small thin book with paper covers, often dealing with a matter of public interest: *a political pamphlet*

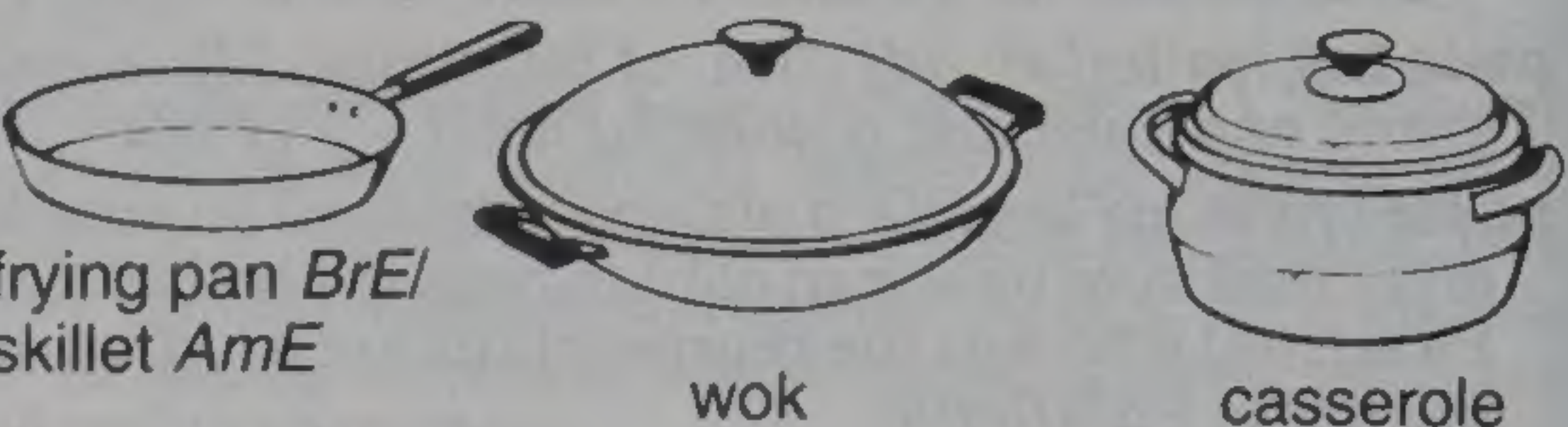
pam-phle-teer /,pæmfɪlɪ'tiəʀ/ *n* a person who writes pamphlets, esp. political pamphlets

pan /pæn/ *n* 1 (often in comb.) a round metal container usu. with one long handle and sometimes with a lid, used esp. in cooking: *Cook the pasta in a large pan of boiling water*. | *a frying pan* —compare POT; see also SAUCEPAN

pans

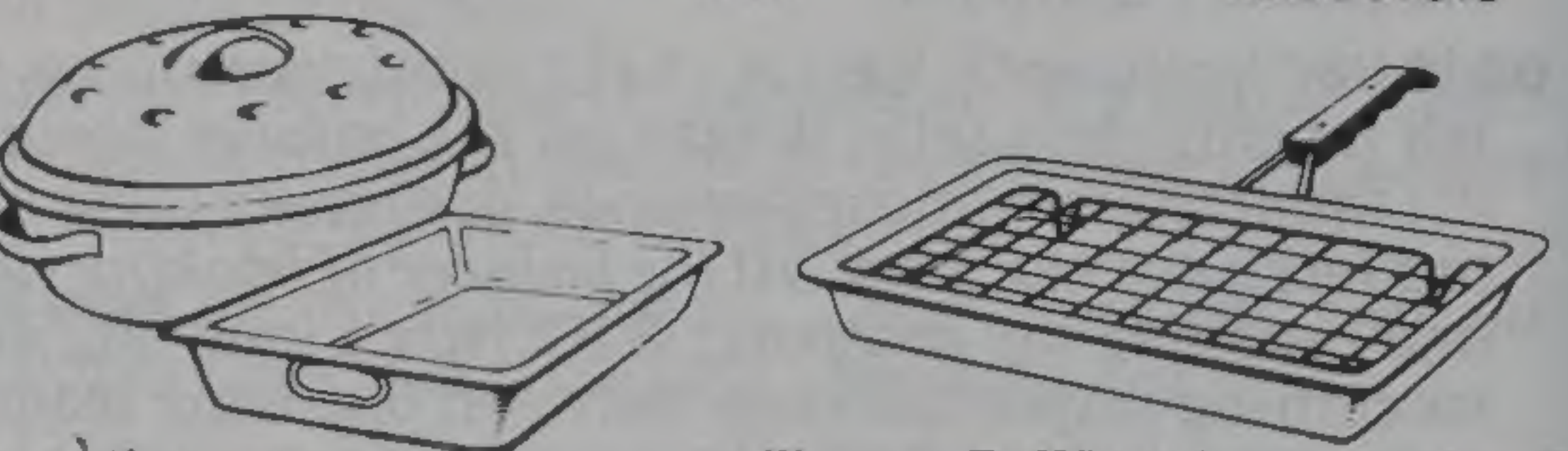


saucepan

frying pan BrE/
skillet AmE

wok

casserole



roasting pans

grill pan BrE/broiler pan AmE

2 either of the two dishes on a small weighing machine 3 esp. BrE the bowl of a LAVATORY 4 a container with holes or a wire net in the bottom used for separating precious metals, such as gold, from other substances by washing them in water 5 (go) down the pan BrE sl (to become) no longer worth using or keeping —see also BED-PAN, DUSTPAN, SALTPAN, WARMING PAN, flash in the pan (FLASH?)

pan² *v* -nn- 1 [I (for); T (OFF, OUT)] to wash (soil or GRAVEL) in a PAN¹ (4) looking for or trying to separate a precious metal 2 [T (OFF, OUT)] to get or separate (a precious metal) in this way 3 [T] *infml* to express a very unfavourable judgment of; CRITICIZE very severely: *His new play was really panned by the critics*.

pan out *phr v* [I usu. in questions or negatives] to happen in a particular way; develop, esp. successfully: *I thought it was a good idea, but now I don't think it will pan out*. | *I wonder how it will pan out*.

pan³ *v* -nn- 1 [I; T] to move (a film or still camera) from side to side, up and down, etc., following action which is being recorded on film or television 2 [I] (of a camera) to be moved in this way: *The camera panned slowly across to the door*.

Pan in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the god of fields, forests, and SHEPHERDS. Pictures of Pan show him as a smiling, ugly man with goat's horns and legs, playing the PANPIPES, and ancient stories often mention his love affairs.

Pan, Peter see PETER PAN

pan- see WORD FORMATION

pan-a-cea /,pænə'siə/ *n* [(for)] often derog 1 something that will put right all troubles: *Higher public spending is not a panacea for all our social problems*. 2 a medicine or other treatment that is supposed to cure any illness —compare NOSTRUM

pan-nache /pən'næʃ, pæn-/ *n* [U] *apprec* a stylish manner of doing things that causes admiration and seems to be without any difficulty: *With great panache he pulled the tablecloth off the table without disturbing any of the plates and glasses*.

pan-a-ma /,pænə'mɑ:ʌ, 'pænəmə:/ also **panama hat** /, ˌ ˌ /— *n* a lightweight hat for men made from the dried undeveloped leaves of a South American PALM tree —see picture at HAT

Panama a country on the Isthmus of Panama, a narrow piece of land connecting Central and South America; capital Panama City; population 2,370,000 (1989). The official name of the country is the Republic of Panama and it is known for the Panama Canal, an artificial waterway crossing the country and connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. —**Panamanian** /,pænə'meɪniən/

Pan A-mer-i-can Games /, ˌ ˌ ˌ ˌ / *n* [P] a number of sports competitions which take place every four years in which the countries of South, Central, and North America take part —see also OLYMPIC GAMES

Pan-a-son-ic /,pænə'sɒnɪk/ || -'sɑ:z-/a Japanese maker of televisions, home electronic equipment etc.

pan-a-tel-a, -tella /ˌpænə'telə/ *n* a long thin CIGAR

pan-cake /'pæŋkeɪk/ *n* 1 || **crepe** *AmE*— a thin, soft, flat cake made of BATTER (=a mixture of flour, milk, and eggs), cooked in a flat pan, and usu. eaten hot, often with a sweet or SAVOURY filling 2 || also **flapjack**, **hotcake** *AmE*— a similar but thicker cake that is often served in a pile with three or four others, usu. for breakfast. Pancakes are eaten with **maple syrup** (MAPLE), butter, or JAM.

Pancake Day /'..../ also **Pancake Tues-day** /'..../ *n* [C;U] *BrE infml* the popular name for SHROVE TUESDAY, on which, according to custom, pancakes are eaten. In some places **pancake races** are held in which each runner has to carry a pancake in a FRYING PAN, throwing it into the air and catching it again as they run along.

pancake land-ing /'..../ *n* a landing in which an aircraft drops flat to the ground from a low height, made usu. because it is in some trouble

pancake roll /'..../ *n* *BrE* for SPRING ROLL

pan-cre-as /'pæŋkriəs/ *n* a part (GLAND) inside the body, near the stomach, which produces INSULIN and a liquid (**pancreatic juice** /'pæŋkriætɪk 'dʒuːs/) that helps in changing food chemically for use by the body

pan-da /'pændə/ *n* **pandas** or **panda** 1 a GIANT PANDA 2 a small bearlike animal with red-brown fur and a long tail, found chiefly in the south-eastern Himalayas

Panda car /'..../ *n* *BrE* a police car that is driven continuously through the streets of a town so that the police can look out for crimes (so called because it was originally painted black and white like a GIANT PANDA)

pan-dem-ic /pæn'demɪk/ *adj, n med* (of) a disease which is widespread over a large area or among a population —compare ENDEMIC, EPIDEMIC

pan-de-mo-ni-um /ˌpændə'məʊniəm/ *n* [U] a state of wild and noisy disorder: *There was sheer pandemonium in the dance hall when someone shouted "Fire!"*

pan-der /'pændə/ *v*

pander to sthg./sbdy. phr v [T] *derog* to provide something that satisfies (the unpleasant or undesirable wishes) of (a person or group): *The newspapers here pander to people's interest in sex scandals. | Don't pander to such people!*

pan-dit /'pændɪt, 'pæn-/ *n* (often *cap.*) (used in India as) a title of respect for a wise man: *Pandit Nehru*

P & O /ˌpiː ɒnd 'əʊ/ a British shipping and TRANSPORT company known esp. for its comfortable CRUISE ships, esp. in the 1920s, and now for its ferries (FERRY)

Pan-do-ra's box /'pæn,dɔːrəz 'bɒks/—'bɔːks/ *n* **open Pandora's box** to unintentionally cause, by taking some action, a large number of problems that did not exist or were not known about before. In CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, Pandora opened the box containing all the world's evils.

p & p *written abbrev. for:* postage and packing (PACKING (2))

pane /peɪn/ *n* a single sheet of glass for use in a frame, esp. of a window

pan-e-gyr-ic /ˌpænɪ'dʒɪrɪk/ *n* [(on, upon)] *fml* a speech or piece of writing praising someone or something highly, perhaps too highly

pan-el /'pænl/ *n* 1 a separate usu. four-sided division of the surface of a door, wall, or other structure, which is different in some way to the surface round it 2 a board on which controls or instruments of various kinds are fixed: *an aircraft's control panel* 3 [+sing./pl. v] a group of people with special skills who are chosen to perform a particular service: *a panel of experts/advisers* b a group of usu. well-known speakers or entertainers who answer questions to inform or amuse the public, usu. on a radio or television show: *a panel game | What does/do the panel think?*—see also PANELLIST 4 a piece of cloth of a different colour or material, set in an article of clothing 5 a thin board with a picture painted on it—see also SOLAR PANEL

panel *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [T (in, with)] to decorate with PANELS¹ (1): *a panelled room | The walls were panelled in/with oak.*

pan-el-ling *BrE* || **paneling** *AmE* /'pænəl-ɪŋ/ *n* [U] PANELS¹ (1): *oak panelling*

pan-el-list *BrE* || **panelist** *AmE* /'pænəl-ɪst/ *n* a member of a PANEL¹ (3b)

pan-el pin /'..../ *n* a short thin type of nail used for fastening thin pieces of wood together

pang /pæŋ/ *n* [(of)] a sudden sharp feeling of pain: *pangs of hunger | She left her children with a pang of regret.*

Pan-gae-a /pæn'dʒiːə/ the very large mass of land that existed as the only land on earth before it broke apart and started to form the CONTINENTS as they exist today—see also LAURASIA, GONDWANALAND

pan-han-dle /'pæn,hændl/ *n* *esp. AmE* a thin stretch of land joined to a larger area like the handle of a pan

panhandle *v* [I] *AmE infml* to beg, esp. in the streets —dler *n*

pan-ic /'pæɪnɪk/ *n* 1 [C. usu. sing.;U] (a state of) sudden uncontrollable quickly-spreading terror or anxiety: *The audience were thrown into a panic when the fire started. | She got into a panic when she thought she'd forgotten the tickets. | Panic spread quickly on the Stock Exchange, and millions of pounds were knocked off the value of shares. | panic selling* (=done is a state of panic) 2 [S] *AmE old fash, sl* a very funny thing; SCREAM² (2) 3 **push the 'panic button** *infml* to take quick, often careless or violent action as the result of a sudden unexpected and possibly dangerous situation

panic *v* -ck- [I (at);T] to (cause to) feel panic: *Don't panic! | The crowd panicked at the sound of the explosion. | The thunder panicked the horses. | a crisis that panicked the government into taking rash measures*

pan-ic-ky /'pæɪnɪki/ *adj infml* (resulting from) feeling sudden great fear

panic sta-tions /'..../ *n* [U] a state of confused anxiety because something needs to be done in a hurry

panic-strick-en /'..../ *adj* filled with panic

pan-jan-drum /pæn'dʒændrəm/ *n* *humor* a powerful person, esp. one who has a high opinion of his/her own importance

Pank-hurst /'pæŋkhɜːst/—hɜːrst/, **Mrs Em-me-line** /'eməlɪn/ (1858–1928) a famous member of the British SUFFRAGETTES, who fought for women's rights, esp. the vote. She was put in prison many times for her actions. Her daughters, Christobel and Sylvia, were also suffragettes and worked for the rights of poor women.

pan-ni-er /'pæniə/ *n* a basket, esp. a either of a pair carried by a horse, on a bicycle, etc. b one used to carry a load on a person's back

pan-ni-kin /'pæɪnɪkɪn/ *n* *BrE & AustrE old-fash* (the amount held by) a small metal drinking cup

pan-o-ply /'pænəpli/ *n* [U] splendid ceremonial show or dress: *the whole panoply of a royal funeral* —plied *adj*

pan-o-ra-ma /ˌpænə'rɑːmə/—'ræmə/ *n* [(of)] 1 a complete view of a wide stretch of land: *a breathtaking panorama from the top of the hill* 2 a general representation in words or pictures: *This book gives a panorama of life in England 400 years ago.* —mic /-'ræmɪk-/ *adj*: *From here you get a panoramic view of the whole valley.* —mically /kli/ *adv*

Panorama 1 a British television programme about politics and current affairs, esp. matters which cause disagreement, broadcast weekly on BBC1 2 an American television programme which includes serious discussions, usu. about current affairs

pan-pipes /'pænpaɪps/ *n* [P] a simple musical instrument made of a number of short pipes and played by blowing across their open ends (from Pan, in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Greek god who is supposed to have invented them)

pan-sy /'pænsi/ *n* 1 a small garden plant with wide flat flowers in many different colours 2 *infml derog* a an EFFEMINATE young man b *old-fash, offensive* a male HOMOSEXUAL

pant /pænt/ *v* 1 [I] to breathe quickly, taking short breaths, esp. after great effort or in great heat: *He stood panting at the top of the stairs.* 2 [T (OUT)] to say while panting: *She panted out her message and then collapsed.* 3 [I (for)] *esp. lit* to have a strong eager desire; YEARN: *She was panting for a chance to speak.*

pant *n* a short quick breath—see also PANTS

pan-ta-loons /ˌpæntə'luːnz/ *n* [P] men's close-fitting trousers worn in former times—see PAIR (USAGE)

pan-tech-ni-con /pæn'teknikən||-kɑ:n/ *n* BrE old-fash a very large VAN, esp. a REMOVAL VAN

pan-the-is-m /'pænθi-izəm/ *n* [U] 1 the religious idea that God and the universe are the same thing and that God is present in all natural things 2 belief in and worship of all gods known to a society —**ist** *n* —**istic** /,pænθi-'istik/ *adj*: pantheistic religions

pan-the-on /'pænθiən||-θiɑ:n/ *n* 1 all the gods of a society or nation thought of together: Mars, Jupiter, and Vulcan were gods of the Roman pantheon. 2 a temple built in honour of all gods 3 a building in which the famous dead of a nation are buried and/or given honour

pan-ther /'pænθə/ *n* **panthers** or **panther** 1 a LEOPARD, esp. a black one 2 AmE for COUGAR or JAGUAR

pan-ties /'pæntiz/ also **pants** BrE||usu. **underpants**, **underwear** AmE— *n* [P] a short undergarment worn below the waist by women and girls; KNICKERS (BrE) — see PAIR (USAGE); compare UNDERPANTS

pan-tile /'pæntail/ *n* [usu. pl.] a TILE (=a piece of baked clay) shaped as a double curve, used in making roofs

pan-to-graph /'pæntəgrɑ:f||-græf/ *n* 1 an instrument used to make a smaller or larger exact copy of a drawing, plan, etc. 2 the metal structure on top of an electric railway engine for gathering power from the wires hung above the line

pan-to-mime /'pæntəmaim/ *n* 1 [C;U] also **pan-to** /'pæntəu/ BrE infml— a kind of British play for children, usu. performed at Christmas, with music, humorous songs, etc.

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Pantomimes are based on TRADITIONAL stories such as *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Aladdin*, and *Peter Pan*. The chief male character, called the **Principal Boy**, is played by a young woman. There is also usu. an ugly old woman, the **Dame**, played by a man, who is meant to be very funny, and a comic animal such as the pantomime horse. The children are encouraged to join in the songs, to shout out to the actors, and to give warning when the bad characters appear, although the good characters pretend not to believe them: "I haven't seen the villain. Do you know where he is, children?" "Behind you!" "Oh no he isn't!" "O yes he is!" Most towns and cities have a pantomime of some kind at Christmas. In large towns and cities it may be performed for several weeks before and after Christmas, and famous singers, COMEDIANS, and celebrities (CELEBRITY) may take part. —see picture at WIDOW TWANKEY ◀

2 [U] MIME¹ (1,2)

pantomime horse /'...-/ *n* BrE an artificial horse which appears esp. in pantomimes and is operated by two people. One person's legs become the front legs, and the other person's legs become the back legs of the horse.

pan-try /'pæntri/ *n* 1 a small room in a house, with shelves and cupboards for keeping food; LARDER 2 a room in a big house, hotel, ship, etc., where glasses, dishes, spoons, etc., are kept

pants /pænts/ *n* [P] 1 BrE for PANTIES or UNDERPANTS 2 esp. AmE trousers 3 put one's pants on one leg at a time AmE infml to be an ordinary person: He puts his pants on one leg at a time, just like we do — go ahead, ask him for his autograph! 4 with one's 'pants down humor awkwardly unprepared —see also beat the pants off someone (BEAT¹), by the seat of one's pants (SEAT¹); see PAIR (USAGE)

pant-suit /'pæntsʊt, -sju:t||-sʊt/ *n* AmE for TROUSER SUIT

panty hose /'...-/ *n* [P] esp. AmE for TIGHTS (1) which are flesh-coloured and SHEER (=can be seen through)

pan-ty-lin-er /'pæntilaɪnə/ *n* a small SANITARY TOWEL which has a band of sticky material on the back, which sticks to the inside of a woman's pants

pan-zer /'pænzə/ *n* (sometimes cap.) a German TANK (2) or

similar armoured vehicle: a Panzer regiment

pap /pæp/ *n* 1 [S;U] often derog soft almost liquid food, esp. for babies or sick people 2 [U] derog, esp. AmE reading matter or entertainment intended only for amusement, which does not instruct or contain ideas of any value: I don't know how you can watch all that pap on the television.

pap-a¹ /'pɑ:pə/ also **poppa**— *n* AmE infml a father (used esp. in the South)

pap-a² /pə'pɑ:/ *n* BrE old use a father: Good morning, Papa.

pap-a-cy /'peɪpəsi/ *n* 1 [the+S] the power and office of the POPE 2 [C] the time during which a particular pope holds office

Papa Doc /,pɑ:pə 'dɒk||-'dɑ:k/, also **Papa Doc Du-val-i-er** /,pɑ:pə 'dʊvəl-i-er/ — another name for François Duvalier (DUVALIER)

pap-a-dum /'pæpədəm||'pɑ:/ *n* a POPADUM

pap-al /'peɪpəl/ *adj* of the POPE or the papacy: papal authority | the papal legate

Pap-an-dre-ou /,pæpən'dreɪ-u:/, **An-dre-as** /æn'dreɪəs/ (1919–) a Greek Socialist politician, Prime Minister from 1981 to 1989

pap-a-raz-zo /,pæpə'rætsəu/ *n* -zi /si/ a newspaper writer or photographer who follows famous people about hoping to find out interesting or shocking stories about them

pap-a-ya /pə'paɪə/ also **pawpaw** esp. BrE & CarE— *n* the large yellow-green fruit of a tall tropical tree —see picture at FRUIT

pap-er¹ /'peɪpə/ *n* 1 [U] a material in the form of thin flat sheets used esp. for writing or printing on, and also for covering parcels, decorating walls, etc., and made from very thin threads of wood or cloth: a piece/sheet of paper | You write letters on writing paper. | a paper bag | a paper handkerchief | a brown paper parcel 2 [C] a newspaper: Have you seen today's paper? | It was in all the papers. | She works as a reporter on the local paper. 3 [C] also **examination paper** fml— a set of printed questions used as an examination in a particular subject: The history paper was really easy. 4 AmE a piece of writing which is part of the work required for school, university, or another course of study: I can't go out this weekend. I have a paper to write on the Civil War. 5 [C (on)] a piece of writing for specialists, often read aloud: At this year's conference, the professor will be giving/reading a paper on her latest research. 6 [C;U] WALLPAPER 7 TOILET PAPER 8 not worth the paper it is printed/written on (of something written, such as a contract) completely worthless 9 on paper as written down or printed, but not yet tested by experience; in THEORY: The plans look good on paper, but there is no guarantee that they will work. —see also DAILY PAPER, PAPERS, GREEN PAPER, WHITE PAPER, put pen to paper (PEN¹)

paper² *v* [T] 1 [(in, with)] to cover (a wall) or the walls of (a room) with WALLPAPER: This room needs papering. | She papered the room green/in green/with green paper. 2 [(OVER, UP)] to hide (disagreements or difficulties) quickly or imperfectly, in order to provide an appearance of agreement, etc. (often in the phrase paper over the cracks)

paper³ *adj* [A] often derog existing only as an idea; unreal: paper profits | paper promises

pap-er-back /'peɪpəbæk||-pər-/ *n* a book with a thin cardboard cover. Paperbacks are usu. cheaper than books with hard covers, and many books are produced with hard covers first and only later in paperback form: This bookshop only sells paperbacks. | a paperback novel | Has this book come out in paperback yet? —compare HARDBACK

pap-er-boy /'peɪpəbɔɪ||-ər-/ **pap-er-girl** /-gɜ:l||-gɜ:rl/fem.— *n* a young person who delivers newspapers to people's houses, usu. before going to school

paper chase /'...-/ *n* a race across open country in which a runner drops pieces of paper which others, running some distance behind, follow

paper clip /'...-/ *n* a small piece of curved wire used for holding sheets of paper together

pap-er-hang-er /'peɪpə'hæŋgər||-pər-/ *n* a person whose job is to stick WALLPAPER on the inside walls of a room

paper knife /'...-/ BrE || **letter opener** AmE— *n* a knife that is only slightly sharp, usu. used for opening envelopes



paper mon-ey /'.. ,./ *n* [U] money in the form of NOTES (=small sheets of paper), rather than coins

paper round /'.. ./ *n* 1 a job, usu. done by children, delivering newspapers to a group of houses 2 the particular group of houses delivered to

pa-pers /'peɪpəz||-ərz/ *n* [P] 1 pieces of paper with writing on them: *I think I've left my papers on the table.* 2 official pieces of paper with writing on them, esp. that one carries to show who or what one is; DOCUMENTS: *naturalization papers* | "*Can I see your papers, please?*" *said the policeman.*

paper shop /'.. ,./ *BrE* || **newsstand** *AmE*— *n* a shop selling newspapers and usu. sweets, cigarettes, and other similar things; a NEWSAGENT

paper ti-ger /,.. '.. / *n* *derog* an enemy that seems or wishes to seem powerful or threatening, but is really not so

paper tow-el /,.. '.. / *n* 1 a small square of thick paper used for drying one's hands, usu. in a public toilet 2 KITCHEN ROLL

pa-per-ware /'peɪpəweə||-pər-/ *n* [U] plates, cups, etc. made of thick paper and intended to be thrown away after use: *a colourful range of picnic paperware*

pa-per-weight /'peɪpəweɪt||-ər-/ *n* a heavy object placed on top of loose papers to keep them from being scattered

pa-per-work /'peɪpəwɜ:k||-pərwɜ:rk/ *n* [U] regular work of writing reports, letters, keeping records, lists, etc., esp. as a less important part of a job: *I've finished the job, but I've still got to catch up on the paperwork.*

pa-per-y /'peɪpəri/ *adj* thin or stiff like paper: *dry papery skin*

pa-pi-er-mâ-ché /,pæpiə 'mæʃeɪ, 'peɪpə-||, 'peɪpər mæ'ʃeɪ/ *n* [U] paper boiled into a soft mass, mixed with a stiffening substance, and used for making boxes, models, etc.

pa-pist /'peɪpɪst/ *n* *derog* a member of the Roman Catholic Church

pa-poose /pə'pu:z||pæ-/ *n* 1 a young child of Native American parents 2 a sort of bag fixed to a frame, used for carrying a baby on a person's back

pap-py /'pæpi/ *n* *AmE infml, esp. dial* a father

pap-ri-ka /'pæprɪkə||pə'prɪ:kə/ *n* [U] a red powder made from a type of SWEET PEPPER and used in cooking to give a special hot taste to food

Pap smear /'.. ./ also **Pap test**— *n* *AmE* for SMEAR TEST

Pap-u-a New Guin-ea /,pæpuə njuz 'gɪni||, pæpjuə nu:z/ an independent country in the SW Pacific Ocean, N of Australia, including the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, and various small islands; capital Port Moresby; population 3,593,000 (1989) — **Papua New Guinean**

Pap-worth Hos-pi-tal /,pæpwəθ 'hɒspɪtəl||-wəθ 'hɑ:z/ a hospital near Cambridge, E England, which specializes in heart TRANSPLANT² (1) operations

pa-py-rus /pə'paɪərəs/ *n* -ruses or -ri /raɪ/ 1 [U] a grass-like water plant formerly common in Egypt, used in ancient times esp. for making paper 2 [U] a type of paper made from this plant 3 [C] a piece of ancient writing on this paper

par /pɑ:z/ *n* 1 [S] a level which is equal or almost the same; PARITY: *As far as size goes, these two cities are on a par (with each other).* (=are equally big) 2 [U] *infml* the usual or average standard or condition (of health, activity, etc.): *I'm feeling a bit below/under par* (=slightly unwell) *today.* | *Your latest piece of work isn't up to par.* (=is not as good as usual) | (*humor*) *The train was 20 minutes late again today — which I suppose is about par for the course.* (=what can be expected to happen) 3 [U] also **par value**— the original value written on a share of ownership in a business: *He bought the shares at par and sold them above par, making a profit.* 4 [U] (in GOLF) the number of strokes a good player should take to hit the ball into a hole or all of the holes

par² also **par-a** /'pærə/— *abbrev. for:* PARAGRAPH

para- see WORD FORMATION

par-a-ble /'pærəbəl/ *n* a short simple story which teaches a moral or religious lesson, esp a story from the Bible

pa-rab-o-la /pə'ræbələ/ *n* *tech* a curve like the line made by a ball when it is thrown high in the air to a person some distance away — **lic** /,pærə'bɒlɪk-||-'ba:z/ *adj* — **lically** /kli/ *adv*

par-a-ce-ta-mol /,pærə'sɪxtəməl||-mə:l/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* an important and common drug for killing pain, reducing headaches, etc. which does not contain ASPIRIN

par-a-chute¹ /'pærəʃu:t/ *n* a large usu. circular piece of cloth fastened by thin ropes to people or objects that are dropped from aircraft in order to make them fall slowly: *a parachute jump* — see also PARATROOPER

parachute² *v* [I+adv|prep;T+obj+adv|prep] to (cause to) drop from an aircraft by means of a parachute: *We parachuted to safety.* | *They parachuted behind enemy lines.* | *We parachuted the supplies to them.*

par-a-chut-ist /'pærəʃu:tɪst/ *n* a person who drops from an aircraft using a parachute

pa-rade¹ /pə'reɪd/ *n* 1 a public procession: *The Olympic Games began with a parade of all the competing nations.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Parades are a regular feature of American celebrations from the smallest towns to the biggest cities. They usu. include MARCHING BANDS, MAJORETTES, FLOATS² (3), and well-known people who ride in big cars waving and smiling. ◀

2 a ceremonial gathering together of soldiers for the purpose of being officially looked at: *The general inspected the parade.* | *The soldiers are on parade today.* 3 *often derog* an act of showing one's skill, knowledge, feelings, etc., with the intention of attracting people's attention or gaining admiration: *I hate the way he makes a parade of his knowledge.* 4 *esp. BrE* (*written abbrev. Pde*) a row of local shops in an area consisting mainly of houses

parade² *v* 1 [I+adv|prep] to walk in a public procession: *The circus paraded through the town to advertise its forthcoming performance.* 2 [I;T] to gather or cause (soldiers) to gather together in a PARADE¹ (2): *Parade the men, sergeant-major!* 3 [I+adv|prep;T] *often derog* to walk about in (a room or area) with the aim of attracting attention or admiration: *She paraded (through) the corridors in her new dress.* | (*fig.*) *old ideas parading as the latest information* 4 [T] *often derog* to show publicly in order to attract attention or admiration; FLAUNT: *He is always parading his knowledge/his wealth.*

parade ground /- '.. ,./ *n* a large flat area where soldiers PARADE² (2)

par-a-digm /'pærədəɪm/ *n* 1 [(of)] *fml* a very clear or typical example of something 2 *tech* an example or pattern of a word, showing all its forms in grammar: "*Child, child's, children, children's*" is a paradigm.

par-a-dig-mat-ic /,pærədɪg'mætɪk- / *adj* *tech* or *fml* of, like, or by means of a paradigm — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

par-a-dise /'pærədəɪs/ *n* 1 [U] (*usu. cap.*) Heaven 2 [U] (*usu. cap.*) (in the Bible) the Garden of Eden, home of the first humans Adam and Eve 3 [U] a place, state, or condition of perfect happiness: *It's sheer paradise to relax in a hot bath after a hard day's work.* 4 [S] *infml* a favourite place in which there is everything needed for a particular activity: *These forests are a hunter's paradise.* (=there are lots of animals for them to shoot) — see also BIRD OF PARADISE, FOOL'S PARADISE

Paradise Lost /,... '.. / a long poem by John Milton telling the story of Adam and Eve. A later poem, which continued the story, was called **Paradise Regained**

par-a-dox /'pærədɒks||-dɔ:ks/ *n* 1 a statement which seems impossible, because it says two opposite things, but which has some truth in it: "*More haste, less speed*" is a paradox. 2 an improbable combination of opposing qualities, ideas, etc.: *It is a paradox that in such a rich country there should be so many poor people.* — compare IRONY — **~ical** /,pærə'dɒksɪkəl-||-'dɔ:k-/ *adj*

par-a-dox-i-cally /,pærə'dɒksɪkli||-'dɔ:k-/ *adv* 1 in a paradoxical way 2 it is a paradox that: *Paradoxically (enough), the faster he tried to finish, the longer it seemed to take him.* — compare IRONICALLY

par-af-fin /'pærəfɪn/ *n* [U] 1 *BrE* || **kerosene** *AmE*— an oil made from PETROLEUM, coal, etc., burnt for heat and in lamps for light 2 also **paraffin wax** /,i... '.. /— a soft white substance obtained from PETROLEUM, coal, etc., used esp. in making candles

par-a-gon /'pærəgən||-gɑ:n/ *n* [(of)] a person or thing that is or seems to be a perfect model to copy: *He behaves as if he were a paragon of virtue, but I could tell you a thing or two about him!*

par-a-graph /'pærəgrɑ:f||-græf/ *n* 1 a division of a piece

of writing which is made up of one or more sentences and begins a new line 2 a short news report in a newspaper

Par-a-guay /'pærəgwai/ a country in S central South America, bordering on Bolivia to the N and W, Brazil to the E, and Argentina to the S and W; capital Asunción; population 4,157,000 (1989) — **Parguayan** /,pærə'gwaɪən/

par-a-keet /'pærəkɪt/ *n* a kind of small PARROT, usu. with a long tail, found in tropical countries

par-a-le-gal /,pærə'li:gəl/ *n* *AmE* someone who does legal work but who is not a lawyer

par-al-lel /'pærələ/ *adj* 1 (of two or more lines or rows) running side by side but never getting nearer to or further away from each other 2 [(to, with)] (of one line or row) running side by side with another line but never getting nearer to or further away from it: *Draw a line parallel to/with this one.* | *The railway line runs parallel to/with the road.* 3 [(to)] of the same type and happening or done at the same time; CORRESPONDING: *As well as the inquiry in London, there is a parallel investigation going on in New York into the cause of the disaster.*

parallel ² *n* 1 [C (to, with)] a parallel line or surface 2 [C (to, with); U] a person or thing that is closely similar or comparable to another person or thing: *The doctor knew of no parallel to his patient's case, and was unsure what treatment to prescribe.* | *Such disgraceful behaviour is without parallel in my experience.* (=I have never heard of any so bad) 3 [C (between, with)] (a point of) similarity: *There are some interesting parallels between the educational systems of these two countries.* | *The present famine is almost on a parallel with the disastrous one of ten years ago.* (=is almost as bad, severe, etc.) 4 [C (between)] a comparison that shows similarity: *She drew a parallel between the events leading up to the previous war and the current political situation.* 5 [C] also **parallel of lat-i-tude** /,... 'lɪtɪd/ — any of a number of lines on a map drawn parallel to the EQUATOR: *the 49th parallel* 6 **in parallel tech** (of a number of electrical apparatuses) connected between two points in such a way that each may receive electrical power whether or not the others are being used — compare **in series** (SERIES)

parallel ³ *v* -l- || also -ll- *BrE* [T] 1 to be similar to: *Your experience parallels my own.* 2 *fml* to equal; match: *a level of economic prosperity that has been paralleled by few other countries* — see also UNPARALLELED

parallel bars /,... 'lɪ/ *n* [(the) P] a pair of parallel bars supported by four upright posts, used for swinging on to exercise the body

→ **par-al-lel-is-m** /'pærələlɪzəm/ *n* 1 [U] the state or quality of being PARALLEL¹ (1,3) 2 [C] *fml* a point of similarity; PARALLEL² (3)

par-al-lel-o-gram /,pærə'leləgrəm/ *n* a flat four-sided shape with opposite sides equal and parallel — see picture at QUADRILATERAL

parallel pro-ces-sing /,... 'lɪ/ *n* [U] a very efficient method of using a computer, which uses a lot of PROCESSORS working together at the same time, instead of one after the other

par-a-lyse *BrE* || -lyze *AmE* /'pærəlaɪz/ *v* [T] 1 to cause paralysis to: *After the accident she was paralysed from the waist down.* | (fig.) *He stood paralysed by fear.* 2 to make ineffective; cause to stop working: *The electricity failure paralysed the train service.*

par-al-y-sis /pə'relɪsɪs/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ [C; U] 1 (a) loss of feeling in, and loss of control of, all or some of the body muscles: *The disease can cause temporary paralysis of the arm.* 2 (a) loss or lack of ability to move, operate, think, etc.: *The transport strike caused total paralysis in the capital.*

par-a-lyt-ic /,pærə'litɪk/ *adj* 1 suffering from paralysis 2 *infml, esp. BrE* very drunk — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

paralytic ² *n* a paralysed person

par-a-med-ic /,pærə'medɪk/ *n* *esp. AmE* someone, such as an AMBULANCE driver, who is trained to help in the care of sick people but is not a doctor or nurse

pa-ram-e-ter /pə'ræmɪtə/ *n* [usu. pl.] any of the established limits within which something must operate: *There is plenty of scope for experimentation, provided we remain within the parameters of the budget.*

par-a-mil-i-tary /,pærə'mɪlɪtri/ *adj* 1 connected

with and helping a regular military force: *In some countries the police have paramilitary duties.* 2 like a regular military force, or intended for use as an irregular military force, esp. illegally: *the paramilitary organizations of Northern Ireland*

par-a-mount /'pærəmaʊnt/ *adj fml* greater than all others in importance or influence; PRIMARY: *This matter is of paramount importance.* | *The interests of the consumer should be paramount.* — ~cy *n* [U]

Paramount a film company (STUDIO) in Hollywood, California

par-a-mour /'pærəmuə/ *n* *lit or old use* a lover, esp. a MISTRESS (2) — compare INAMORATA

par-a-noi-a /,pærə'nɔɪə/ *n* [U] 1 a serious disease of the mind in which the sufferer believes that he or she is hated and being purposely mistreated, or is a person of great power or importance 2 *infml* an unreasonable lack of trust in other people, sometimes amounting to fear

par-a-noi-ac /,pærə'nɔɪæk/ also **pa-ra-no-ic** /-'nɔɪ-ɪk/ — *adj, n* (of or being) a person suffering from paranoia — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

par-a-noid /'pærənɔɪd/ *adj* (as if) suffering from paranoia: *My father locks every door and window in the house — he's paranoid about being robbed.*

par-a-nor-mal /,pærə'nɔɪməl/ — '-nɔɪ-r-/ *adj* impossible to explain by science; SUPERNATURAL

par-a-pet /'pærəpɪt, -pet/ *n* 1 a low wall at the edge of a roof, bridge, etc. 2 a protective wall of earth or stone built in front of the TRENCHES used by soldiers in war

par-a-pher-na-li-a /,pærəfə'neɪliə/ -fər-/ *n* 1 [U] small articles of various kinds, esp. personal belongings or those needed for a particular activity; usu. used of things which are complicated or many in number: *I keep all my photographic paraphernalia in that cupboard.* 2 [S] *infml, esp. BrE* unwanted, annoying, or difficult activity, esp. that is necessary for doing or getting something; PALAVER: *all the paraphernalia of getting a new passport* 3 *AmE* the things used in taking illegal drugs, such as pipes, containers, etc.: *In some states it is not illegal to sell (drug) paraphernalia.*

par-a-phrase /'pærəfreɪz/ *n* [(of)] a re-statement in different words of (something written or said), esp. in words that are easier to understand — **paraphrase** *v* [T]

par-a-ple-gi-a /,pærə'pli:dʒiə, -dʒə/ *n* [U] PARALYSIS of the lower part of the body, including both legs

par-a-ple-gic /,pærə'pli:dʒɪk/ *n, adj* (a person) suffering from paraplegia

par-a-psy-chol-o-gy /,pærəsai'kɒlədʒi/ -'kɑː-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of PSYCHIC powers, such as the ability to see into the future, to see into another person's mind, etc.

par-a-quat /'pærəkwoʊt/ -kwɔːt/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a very powerful liquid poison used to kill unwanted plants. In the US, paraquat is remembered for having been used on CANNABIS plants by the government, which led to cannabis users being poisoned.

par-as /'pærəz/ *n* [(the) P] *BrE infml* for PARATROOPS

par-a-site /'pærəsait/ *n* [(on, of)] 1 a plant or animal that lives on or in another and gets food from it: *The mistletoe plant is a parasite on/of trees.* 2 *derog* a useless person who is supported by the generosity or efforts of others

par-a-sit-ic /,pærə'sɪtɪk/ also **par-a-sit-i-cal** /-ɪkəl/ — *adj* 1 [(on)] of, like, or being a parasite: *a parasitic plant* 2 caused by a parasite: *a parasitic disease* — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

par-a-sol /'pærəsɒl/ -sɔːl, -sɑːl/ *n* a SUNSHADE

par-a-thy-roid /,pærə'θaɪrɔɪd/ also **parathyroid gland** /-.. 'lɪ-/ *n* any of four small bodily parts (GLANDS) in the throat which control the use of two chemicals, CALCIUM and PHOSPHORUS, by the body

par-a-troop-er /'pærə'truːpə/ *n* a soldier trained to drop from an aircraft using a PARACHUTE

par-a-troops /'pærə'truːps/ *n* [P] paratroopers, esp. as formed into a military unit to fight together

par-a-ty-phoid /,pærə'taɪfɔɪd/ *n* [U] a disease that attacks the bowels, and is very similar to, but less serious than, TYPHOID

par-boil /'paːbɔɪl/ 'paɪ-r-/ *v* [T] to boil until partly cooked

par-cel ¹ /'pa:ɪsəl/ || 'pa:ɪr-/ *n* [(of)] **1** esp. BrE || also **package** esp. AmE— a thing or collection of things wrapped in paper and tied or fastened in some other way for easy carrying, posting, etc.: *She tied up the parcel with string.* | *He undid/unwrapped the parcel.* | *a parcel of clothes* **2** esp. law or AmE a piece of land, esp. part of a larger piece that has been divided —compare **PACKET**; see also **part** and **parcel of** (**PART**¹)

parcel² *v* -ll- BrE || -l- AmE

parcel sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T] to divide into parts or shares for giving out

parcel sthg. ↔ **up phr v** [T] to make into a parcel by wrapping and tying: *We parcelled up the clothes for Oxfam.*

Parcel Force /'... / a branch of the British postal service which deals with parcels: *A Parcel Force van drew up outside the house.*

parcel post /'... / *n* [U] BrE the system or method of sending or carrying parcels by post

parch /pɑ:tʃ/ || pɑ:rtʃ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become completely dry as a result of great heat: *The fierce sun had parched the landscape.* | *The plants will parch if the hot weather continues.* | *I'm parched; I could do with a drink!*

par-chee-si /pɑ:tʃi:zi/ || pɑ:ɪr-/ *n* tdmk AmE for LUDO

parch-ment /'pɑ:tʃmənt/ || 'pa:ɪr-/ *n* **1** [U] a writing material used esp. in ancient times, made from the skin of a sheep or goat: *The old man's skin was like parchment.* **2** [C] an ancient piece of writing on this material **3** [C;U] (an official piece of writing on) any of various types of paper of good quality

pard-ner /'pɑ:dneɪ/ || 'pa:ɪr-/ *n* AmE infml partner, used as a greeting, often to someone you do not know: *Howdy, pardner!*

par-don¹ /'pɑ:dn/ || 'pɑ:rdn/ *n* **1** [C] an action of a court or ruler forgiving a person for an illegal act and giving freedom from punishment: *His pardon came through only three hours before he was due to be executed.* —see also **FREE PARDON** **2** [C;U (for)] fml (an act or example of) forgiving: *If I have offended you, I ask your pardon.* **3** **Pardon my French** infml, humor (said before or after using bad or impolite language (SWEARING)): *The bloody car's broken down—pardon my French.* **4** **I beg your pardon** also **Pardon 'me**— a polite Please excuse me (said when you accidentally touch or push someone) **b** also **Pardon infml**— (said with the voice rising at the end) I did not hear/understand what you said and would like you to repeat it **c** polite Please excuse me (said when one accidentally does something (e.g. BELCH noisily) that could be offensive to another person) **d** (said in a firm unfriendly voice) I'm afraid I think that what you have just said is not true or not acceptable —see **EXCUSE** (**USAGE**); see also **excuse me** (**EXCUSE**¹);

pardon² *v* [T] **1** [(for)] to forgive or excuse: *Pardon my strong language.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *We must pardon him (for) his little outbursts of temper.* [+obj+v-ing] *Pardon me interrupting, but ...* | *It seems to me like a bit of a cock-up, if you'll pardon the expression.* (=excuse my use of this phrase) **2** to give an official pardon to or for **3** **Pardon 'me** polite —see **PARDON**¹ (4)

par-don-a-ble /'pɑ:dənəbəl/ || 'pa:ɪr-/ *adj* that can be forgiven: *a pardonable mistake/weakness* —opposite **unpardonable** —bly *adv*

par-don-er /'pɑ:dənəɪ/ || 'pa:ɪr-/ *n* (in former times) a person who went about the country selling official religious INDULGENCES (4)

pare /peəɪ/ *v* [T] **1** [(DOWN)] to cut away the thin outer covering, edge, or skin of (something), usu. with a sharp knife; **PEEL**: *to pare one's fingernails* | (fig.) *We must pare down (=reduce) costs to improve our profitability.* | *Spending on education has been pared to the bone.* (=reduced to the lowest possible level) **2** [(AWAY, OFF)] to cut away (the thin outer covering, edge, or skin of something), usu. with a sharp knife: *She pared off the apple peel.* —see also **CHEESEPARING**, **PARING**

par-ent /'peərənt/ *n* **1** the father or mother of a person or animal: *my parents* | *Being a parent (=having children) can be hard work.* | *a single-parent family* | (fig.) *Our club is the parent organization, and there are now four others like it.* **2** to lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness quote a slightly changed phrase from the play *The Importance*

of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde — ~al /pə'rentl/ *adj* : *parental responsibilities* | *to get married without parental consent*

par-ent-age /'peərəntɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the fact of being descended from particular parents: *a child of unknown parentage* (=we do not know who its parents are)

parent com-pa-ny /'... '.../ *n* a business company that controls one or more others

parent governor /'... '.../ *n* a person whose child attends a particular school, and who, with other people, has the power to make certain decisions about how the school is run

pa-ren-the-sis /pə'renθɪsɪs/ *n* -theses /θɪsɪz/ **1** [usu. pl.] BrE fml or AmE for **BRACKET**⁴ (2) **2** one or more words introduced as an added explanation or thought, and in writing usu. enclosed at both ends by a parenthesis, as in the following sentence: *This class (and I speak from long experience) is the worst I have ever known.*

par-en-thet-ic /'pærən'thetɪk/ also **par-en-thet-i-cal** /-ɪkəl/— *adj* introduced as an added explanation or thought: *If I may add a few parenthetical remarks of a personal nature here ...* — ~ally /kli/ *adv*

par-ent-hood /'peərənthud/ *n* [U] the state or condition of being a parent

par-ent-ing /'peərəntɪŋ/ *n* [U] parental care of children: *the problems of parenting*

parent-teach-er as-so-ci-a-tion /'... '... '... / *n* see PTA

par ex-cel-lence /'pɑ:ɪr 'eksələns/ || -eksə'ləns/ *adj* [after *n*] Fr, apprec without equal, as the best and/or most typical of its kind: *"Wuthering Heights" is surely the romantic novel par excellence.*

par-he-li-on /pɑ:'hɪliən/ || pɑ:ɪr-/ *n* -lia /liə/ tech an image of the sun sometimes seen at the side of the sun at sunset

pa-ri-ah /pə'raɪə, 'pæriə/ || pə'raɪə/ *n* fml derog a person who is not accepted by society; social OUTCAST

par-i-mu-tu-el /'pæri 'mjʊtʃuəl/ || -tʃuəl/ *n* Fr a system of risk-ing money, esp. on a horse race, in which the money risked by the losers is taken and divided up among the winners

parimutuel ma-chine /'... '... / *n* AmE TOTE² (1)

par-ing /'peərɪŋ/ *n* [usu. pl.] something thin that has been pared off (**PARE** (2)): *vegetable parings*

Par-is¹ /'pærɪs/ the capital city of France, in the N central part of the country on the River Seine, often thought of as a city for lovers and honeymooners (**HONEYMOON**²) —see also **EIFFEL TOWER**, **LEFT BANK**, **MONTMARTRE**

Paris² in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, a prince of Troy who took Helen away from Greece, causing the Trojan War, and who killed Achilles in this war

Paris-Dak-ar Ral-ly /'pærɪs 'dækɑ: 'ræli/ || -də'kɑ:ɪr-/ [the] a motor race over public roads from Paris, France to Dakar, Senegal, including the crossing of the Sahara Desert. The Paris-Dakar Rally is open to all kinds of motor vehicles.

par-ish /'pærɪʃ/ *n* **1** (esp. in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches) an area in the care of a single priest and served by one main church: *a parish priest* —see also **PAROCHIAL** **2** a also **civil parish**— (in England) a small area, esp. a village, having its own local government; the smallest unit of local government **b** (in the American state of Louisiana) **COUNTY**¹: *Vermilion Parish* **3** infml, esp. BrE an area of knowledge or work that is the special responsibility of a particular person

Parish, Max-field /'mæksfi:ld/ (1870–1966) an American artist famous for his **ILLUSTRATIONS** (=pictures in book), which are **ROMANTIC** and colourful and show light in a slightly **SURREAL** way

parish church /'... '... / *n* the main church in a **PARISH** (1)

parish clerk /'... '... / *n* a church official in a **PARISH** (1) who performs various duties in or for the church

parish coun-cil /'... '... / *n* in Britain, a group of elected people which manages the affairs of a **PARISH** (2a), but has not as much power as a **DISTRICT COUNCIL**

pa-rish-io-ner /pə'riʃɪənəɪ/ *n* a person living in a particular **PARISH** (1), esp. one who regularly attends the parish church

parish-pump /'... '... / *adj* [A] BrE, often derog of local interest only: *parish-pump politics*

parish re-gis-ter /'... '... / *n* a large book, or a number of

books, in which are written details of all the births, deaths, and marriages in a parish

Pa·ris·i·an /pəˈrɪziən||pəˈrɪzən, -ˈrɪz-/ *n, adj* (a person) of or from Paris

par·i·ty /ˈpærɪti/ *n* 1 [U (with)] the state or quality of being equal, e.g. in level, position, amount, etc.: *We have worked hard to achieve parity with our commercial competitors.* 2 *tech* a system by which computer DATA (=stored information) sent from one place to another can be tested for mistakes

park¹ /pɑːk||pɑːrk/ *n* 1 [C] a large usu. grassy enclosed piece of land in a town, used by the public for pleasure and rest: *children playing in the park | a park bench* 2 [C] *BrE* a large enclosed stretch of land with grass, trees, etc., round a large country house —compare PARKLAND 3 [*the+S*] *BrE sl* a field on which esp. professional SOCCER is played: *the best player on the park* —see also AMUSEMENT PARK, BALL PARK, CAR PARK, LORRY PARK, NATIONAL PARK, SCIENCE PARK, THEME PARK

park² *v* 1 [I;T] to put or place (a car or other vehicle) in a particular place for a time: *You're not allowed to park (the car) in this street. | I'm parked over there.* (=My car is parked over there.) —see PARKING (USAGE) 2 [T+obj+adv/prep] *infml* to leave or place (something or someone) in a particular position for a certain time, often in a way that causes annoyance: *Don't park your books on top of my papers! | They parked their children on us while they went shopping.*

par·ka /ˈpɑːkə||ˈpɑːrkə/ *n* 1 a coat down to the knees with a HOOD (=a protective cover) for the head, usu. with fur inside —compare ANORAK 2 *esp. AmE* for ANORAK

Par·ker¹ /ˈpɑːkə||ˈpɑːr-/ *Charlie “Bird”* (1920–55) a black American JAZZ musician and writer of music who played the SAXOPHONE and invented BEBOP with Dizzy Gillespie

Parker², Dor·o·thy /ˈdɒrəθi||ˈdɔː-/ (1893–1967) an American writer of criticism, poetry, and short stories, best remembered for her clever sayings and her association with the Algonquin Round Table

Park·hurst pris·on /ˌpɑːkhɜːst ˈprɪzən||ˌpɑːrkɜːrst-/ also **Parkhurst** a British prison on the Isle of Wight for men who have received long prison sentences for serious crimes

park·ing /ˈpɑːkɪŋ||ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [U] 1 the leaving of a car or other vehicle in a particular place for a time 2 space in which vehicles may be left like this: *There is plenty of parking behind the cinema.*

▷ **USAGE** You **park** (your car) in a **car park** *BrE* || **parking lot** *AmE* or **parking place**. When it is standing there it is **parked**. The signs *Parking/No Parking* mean “Parking is permitted/not permitted here”. ◁

parking ga·rage /ˈpɑːkɪŋ ˈɡɑːrɪʒ||ˈpɑːr ˈɡɑːrɪʒ/ *n AmE* for CAR PARK (2)

parking light /ˈpɑːkɪŋ ˈlaɪt||ˈpɑːr ˈlaɪt/ *n AmE* for SIDELIGHT (1) —see picture at CAR

parking lot /ˈpɑːkɪŋ ˈlɒt||ˈpɑːr ˈlɒt/ *n AmE* for CAR PARK (1)

parking me·ter /ˈpɑːkɪŋ ˈmiːtə||ˈpɑːr ˈmiːtə/ *n* an apparatus at the side of a street, into which one puts a coin to pay for parking a car beside it for a certain time —see picture at METER

parking tick·et /ˈpɑːkɪŋ ˈtɪkɪt||ˈpɑːr ˈtɪkɪt/ *n* an official notice fixed to a vehicle by a TRAFFIC WARDEN or a policeman, stating that the vehicle has been parked in a way which is against the law, and that a FINE will be made: *He's had ten parking tickets this month, and hasn't paid any of the fines yet.*

Par·kin·son¹ /ˈpɑːkɪnsən||ˈpɑːr-/ **Lord Ce·cil** /ˈsesɪl/ (1931–) an English Conservative politician. In 1983 he left the Cabinet because it was made public that he had a MISTRESS (2) who was going to have a child by him. In 1987 he was brought back into the Cabinet.

Parkinson², Mi·chael /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1935–) an English television PRESENTER and INTERVIEWER (=a person who asks others questions in a television programme)

Parkinson's dis·ease /ˈpɑːkɪnsən ɪz ˈiːz||ˈpɑːr ɪz ˈiːz/ —also **Par·kin·son·is·m** /ˈpɑːkɪnsən ɪz ˈm/ ||ˈpɑːr ɪz ˈm/ *n* [U] a kind of PARALYSIS, esp. of old people, in which the muscles become stiff and the limbs continually shake

Parkinson's law /ˈpɑːkɪnsən ˈlɔː||ˈpɑːr ˈlɔː/ *n* [S] *esp. humor* the idea that work increases to fill the time allowed for it (from the name of its inventor, British writer Cyril Northcote Parkinson)

park keep·er /ˈpɑːk ˈkiːpə||ˈpɑːr ˈkiːpə/ *BrE* || **park ranger** *AmE* — *n* a person

who is in charge of a park or whose job it is to help look after a park

park·land /ˈpɑːk-lænd||ˈpɑːrk-/ *n* [U] 1 *BrE* grassy land, esp. that surrounding a large country house, covering a large area and having trees growing in it —compare PARK¹ (2) 2 land used as or fit for use as a park

Park Lane /ˌpɑːk ˈleɪn/ a wide street in central London between Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner. It is famous for its hotels and houses for the rich.

Parks /pɑːks||pɑːrks/, **Ro·sa** /ˈrəʊzə/ (1913–) a black American woman who in 1955 refused to give up her seat at the front of a bus to a white man. This was against the law and she was arrested (ARREST) by the police. This is seen as one of the most important events at the beginning of the CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. In 1956, the US Supreme Court said that SEGREGATION (keeping black people separate from white people) on buses was not legal under the American Constitution.

park·way /ˈpɑːkweɪ||ˈpɑːrk-/ *n* *esp. AmE* a wide road divided by or bordered with an area of grass and trees

par·ky /ˈpɑːki||ˈpɑːrki/ *adj BrE infml* (of the air, weather, etc.) rather cold

par·lance /ˈpɑːləns||ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [U] *fml* a particular manner of speech or use of words: *In naval parlance, a kitchen is a “galley”.* | *in legal/common parlance*

par·ley /ˈpɑːli||ˈpɑːrli/ *n* a talk, esp. with an enemy or other opponent, in order to make peace —**parley** *v* [I (with)]

par·lia·ment /ˈpɑːləmənt||ˈpɑːr-/ *n* (*often cap.*) 1 [C] (in some countries) the main law-making body, made up of members wholly or partly elected by the people of the country 2 (in Britain) the main law-making body, consisting of both the elected representatives of the people (the House of Commons) and the House of Lords. When people talk about Parliament, they often mean only the House of Commons. 3 [C] a parliament as it exists for the time between its ceremonial opening and its official closing: *Several new laws have been passed in/during the present parliament.* —see also HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, ACT OF PARLIAMENT and see extra information on page 566

pār·lia·men·tar·i·an /ˌpɑːləməntəˈrɪən||ˌpɑːr-/ *n* 1 a person who is a skilled and experienced member of a parliament 2 [*often pl.*] (*usu. cap.*) a ROUNDHEAD

par·lia·men·ta·ry /ˌpɑːləˈmentəri||ˌpɑːr-/ *adj* of or suitable for a parliament: *parliamentary procedure* —see also UNPARLIAMENTARY

Parliamentary Com·mit·tee /ˌpɑːləməntəri ˈkɒmɪti||ˌpɑːr ˈkɒmɪti/ *n* any of several groups of British MPs who have particular Parliament business to do. Parliamentary Committees are divided into **Standing Committees**, which mainly examine suggestions for new laws, and **Select Committees**, which check on how well government departments are working and on how much money they are spending.

parliamentary ma·jor·i·ty /ˌpɑːləməntəri ˈmaɪərɪti||ˌpɑːr ˈmaɪərɪti/ *n* (in Britain) the amount by which the number of MPs belonging to the ruling party is greater than the number of MPs belonging to all other parties: *For some time Wilson's government had a parliamentary majority of only three.*

parliamentary priv·i·lege /ˌpɑːləməntəri ˈprɪvɪlɪʒ||ˌpɑːr ˈprɪvɪlɪʒ/ *n* (in Britain) any of several special rights which are given to MPs e.g. freedom of speech, and not having to serve as a member of a JURY (1)

parliamentary sec·re·ta·ry /ˌpɑːləməntəri ˈsekɪtəri||ˌpɑːr ˈsekɪtəri/ *n* a British MP who usu. has the title Junior Minister and who helps a minister of high rank with the work of his/her department

parlor car /ˈpɑːlə ˈkɑː||ˈpɑːr ˈkɑː/ *n AmE* for PULLMAN

par·lour *BrE* || **parlor** *AmE* /ˈpɑːlə||ˈpɑːr/ *n* 1 *esp. AmE* (*in comb.*) a shop for some kind of personal service or for selling a particular type of article: *an ice-cream parlour | a massage parlour* 2 *old-fash* a room in a private house used by the family for meeting guests, reading, and other amusements 3 *old-fash* a room in certain public buildings where guests are received: *the mayor's parlour* 4 “Will you walk into my parlour?” said a spider to a fly *quote* the first line of a poem by Mary Howitt, often mentioned when saying that a person will pretend to be friendly in order to get something that they want —see also BEAUTY PARLOUR, MILKING PARLOUR

parlour game /ˈpɑːlə ɡeɪm||ˈpɑːr ɡeɪm/ *n old-fash* a game which can be played

indoors, usu. sitting down, such as a guessing game or a word game

par-lour-maid *BrE* || **parlormaid** *AmE*— /'pɑ:ləmeɪd/ 'pɑ:rlər-/ *n* *old-fash* a female servant employed in a large house to serve guests in the parlour

par-lous /'pɑ:ləs/ 'pɑ:r-/ *adj fml* or *humor* in danger of failing; uncertain and dangerous: *My finances are in a pretty parlous condition.* (=I haven't much money.) | *the parlous state of international relations*

Par-me-san /,pɑ:mɪ'sæn/ 'pɑ:rmɪzæn, -zæn/ also **Parme-san cheese** /,... '/- *n* [U] a hard strong-tasting Italian cheese. It is usu. grated (GRATE) finely and put on top of PASTA dishes

Par-nas-sus /pɑ:'næsəs/ 'pɑ:r-/ a high mountain in central Greece, the modern name of which is **Parnassós**. In ancient times it was thought to be a holy place of the gods Apollo and Dionysus, and of the Muses (=goddesses of the arts).

Par-nell /pɑ:'nel/ 'pɑ:r-/ **Charles Stewart** (1846–91) Irish politician who wanted HOME RULE (=self-government) in Ireland, and became leader of the Home Rule party in the House of Commons. He lost political power when it became known that he was the lover of a married woman.

pa-ro-chi-al /pə'rəʊkiəl/ *adj* **1** *derog* limited or narrow in range; interested in or dealing only with things close to oneself: *Local newspapers tend to be very parochial.* —compare INSULAR **2** of a PARISH (1) —~ly *adv* —~ism *n* [U]

parochial school /,pə'... / *n* a private school which is run by, or connected with, a church

par-o-dy¹ /'pærədi/ *n* **1** [C;U (of, on)] (a piece of) writing or music intended to amuse, which recognizably copies the style of a known writer or musician —compare SATIRE **2** [C (of)] *derog* a weak and unsuccessful copy; TRAVESTY: *The trial was a parody of justice.* —dist *n*

parody² *v* [T] to make a parody of

pa-role¹ /pə'rəʊl/ *n* [U] **1** the letting out of a prisoner for a limited time, on condition that they return: *He was released on parole to go to his daughter's wedding.* **2** the letting out of a prisoner before the official period of their imprisonment has ended, on condition that they behave well: *The sentence was for fifteen years but he was released on parole after ten years.*

parole² *v* [T] to set free on parole

par-ox-ys-m /'pærəksɪzəm/ *n* [(of)] **1** a sudden uncontrollable expression of strong feeling: *a paroxysm of rage/laughter* **2** a sudden but passing attack (of a sharp pain or a disease that comes regularly): *paroxysms of pain/of coughing*

par-quet /'pɑ:keɪ, 'pɑ:ki/ 'pɑ:r'keɪ/ *n* [U] small flat blocks of wood fitted together in a pattern and stuck onto the floor of a room: *a parquet floor*

par-ri-cide /'pærɪsaɪd/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the crime of killing one's father, mother, or a close relative **2** [C] *tech* a person guilty of this crime —compare MATRICIDE, PATRICIDE

par-rot¹ /'pærət/ *n* **1** any of a large group of usu. tropical birds that have a curved beak and usu. brightly coloured feathers. Some of these birds can be taught to copy human speech. They are sometimes taken to other countries and kept as pets. Polly is a TRADITIONAL name for a parrot, and parrots are often taught to say "pretty Polly". In stories, PIRATES often have a parrot which sits on their shoulder and says "pieces of eight" (=old, valuable coins). —see also LONG JOHN SILVER, PIRATE **2** *usu. derog* a person who copies, often without understanding, the words or actions of another **3** 'parrot fashion' *usu. derog* by means of continuous repeating, but usu. without real understanding: *The children learnt the poem parrot fashion.* —see also DEAD PARROT SKETCH, sick as a parrot (SICK)



parrot

parrot² *v* [T] *usu. derog* to repeat (the words or actions of someone else) without thinking or understanding

par-ry¹ /'pæri/ *v* [T] to turn aside or keep away (an attacking blow or a weapon); DEFLECT: (fig.) *He parried the unwelcome question very skilfully.*

parry² *n* an act of parrying; movement of defence in some sports, esp. FENCING

parse /pɑ:z/ 'pɑ:rs/ *v* [T] *tech* (in grammar) **1** to state the PART OF SPEECH, the form in grammar, and the use in a particular sentence of (a word) **2** to give this information about all the words in (a sentence) —**parser** *n*: *an automatic parser that uses a computer program*

Par-see, **Parsi** /pɑ:'si:z/ 'pɑ:rsi:z/ *n, adj* (a member) of an ancient Persian religious group in India

par-si-mo-ni-ous /,pɑ:rsɪ'məʊniəs/ 'pɑ:r-/ *adj fml, usu. derog* extremely careful with money; unwilling to spend; STINGY: *a parsimonious person/gift* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

par-si-mo-ny /'pɑ:rsɪməni/ 'pɑ:rsɪməni/ *n* [U] *fml, usu. derog* the quality of being parsimonious; failure to be generous

pars-ley /'pɑ:slɪ/ 'pɑ:r-/ *n* [U] a small plant (HERB) with curly strong-tasting leaves, grown in gardens and used in cooking or as a decoration on food

parsley sauce /,... '/- *n* [U] a WHITE SAUCE (=a thick white liquid cooked with flour) with finely cut up parsley in it, eaten in Britain esp. with fish

pars-nip /'pɑ:snɪp/ 'pɑ:r-/ *n* [C;U] (a plant with) a thick white or yellowish root that is used as a vegetable

par-son /'pɑ:sən/ 'pɑ:r-/ *n* **1** a priest of the Church of England who is in charge of a PARISH (1) **2** *AmE* a Protestant priest who is in charge of a local church or PARISH **3** *infml* any Christian priest

par-son-age /'pɑ:sənɪdʒ/ 'pɑ:r-/ *n* the house where a parson lives

Par-sons /'pɑ:sənz/ 'pɑ:r-/ **Nich-o-las** /'nɪkələs/ (1928–) an English actor now known esp. as a QUIZMASTER

parson's nose /,... '/- *BrE* || **pope's nose** *AmE*— *n infml* humor the piece of flesh at the tail end of a cooked bird, such as a chicken

part¹ /pɑ:t/ 'pɑ:rt/ *n* **1** [C;U (of)] any of the pieces into which something is divided or may be considered as being divided, whether separated from a whole or connected with it, and which is therefore less than the whole: *This is only (a) part of it; where's the rest?* | *I didn't like the first part of the book.* | *Which part of the town do you live in?* | *Divide the mixture into two equal parts.* | *A large part of the house was destroyed by the fire.* | *The best part of my job is all the travel it involves.* | *She lived there for the greater part (=most) of her life.* | *We waited for the best part/the better part of an hour.* (=almost an hour) **2** [C] a division of a story or other work which appears regularly on radio or television, in a newspaper, as a PART WORK, etc.: *You can see part two of the serial at the same time next week.* | *a book by Charles Dickens, adapted for radio in 14 parts* **3** [C] a necessary or important piece of a machine or other apparatus: *This machine has over a hundred moving parts.* **b** a SPARE PART **4** [C] any of several equal divisions which make up a whole: *This mixture is one part wine and two parts water.* | (*infml*) *The work's three parts (=three quarters; nearly) finished.* **5** [S;U (in)] a share or responsibility in some activity: *to take part in a race/a debate* | *Luck played a part in (=helped to cause) his success.* | *The question of cost will play an important part in our decision.* | *He was the host, so it wasn't my part to tell him who should be invited.* | *This is a dishonest plan, and I want no part in it.* **6** [U] a side or position **a** in an argument: *Tom took my part in the disagreement.* (=supported my side) **b** law in an agreement or contract **7** [C] (the words and actions of) a character acted by an actor in a play, film, etc.: *Have you learnt your part yet?* | *She's been offered a marvellous part in the new film.* | *In the play, I take/play the part of a policeman.* | (fig.) *He's a very successful businessman, but he doesn't really look/dress the part.* (=look/dress like someone in that position) —see also BIT PART **8** [C] *AmE* for PARTING¹ (2) **9** for 'my part as far as I am concerned; speaking for myself: *For my part, I don't care who wins.* **10** for the 'most part: **a** mostly: *This orange drink is for the most part water.* **b** most of the time; in most cases: *For the most part the children are very healthy.* **11** *BrE* in good part without being offended: *I hope you will take my advice in good part.* **12** in part in some degree; partly: *The accident was due in part to carelessness, but mainly to bad luck.* **13** on the part of someone of or by someone: *It was a*

mistake on the part of Jones/on Jones's part (=Jones was mistaken) *to sign the contract without reading it.* **14 part and parcel of** a necessary or important part that cannot be separated from the whole of: *Working irregular hours is part and parcel of being a journalist.* —see also PARTS, PRIVATE PARTS

part² *v* **1** [I (from, as); T (from)] *esp. fml or lit* to (cause to) separate or no longer be together: *I hope we can part (as) friends.* (=remain friends even though we part) | *The war parted many men from their families.* | *We tried to part the two angry dogs.* (=stop them fighting) | *She refused to be parted from her beloved cat.* **2** [I; T] to (cause to) separate into parts or spread apart: *The clouds parted and the sun shone.* | *She parted the curtains and looked out.* **3** [T] to separate (hair on the head) along a line with a comb **4 part company (with): a** to end a relationship (with): *I hear he and his wife have parted company.* **b** to no longer be together (with): *I'm getting off the train here, so we must part company.* **c** to disagree (with): *I'll have to part company with you on that point.* **5 parting is such sweet sorrow** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, often used humorously

part with sthg. *phr v* [T] to give away; stop having: *It's not easy to part with one's favourite possessions.*

part³ *adv* partly: *The medical exams are part written, part practical.*

part⁴ *adj* [A] not complete; PARTIAL: *I gave them a pound in part payment.* | *They are part owners of the house.* (=they share ownership of it)

partake /pɑː'teɪk/ || pɑːr-/ *v* **partook** /pɑː'tʊk/ || pɑːr-, **partaken** /pɑː'teɪkən/ || pɑːr-/ [I] *old use or fml* **1** [(in)] to take part (in an activity); PARTICIPATE **2** [(of)] *often humor* to eat or drink *esp.* something offered: *"Will you partake of a little wine?" "No, thank you; I don't partake."* (=don't drink alcohol)

partake of sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to have the qualities, to some degree, of: *a self-confident manner that partakes of arrogance*

par-terre /pɑː'teəʳ/ || pɑːr-/ *n* a level space in a garden, with an area of grass and decorative areas of flowers in a formal pattern

part ex-change /,pɑːt'ɛtʃeɪʃ/ || BrE || **trade-in** AmE— *n* [C; U] (an example of) the system of paying for something partly in money and partly in goods, *esp.* with a used object of the same kind as the thing one is buying: *When you buy a new car you can often give your old one in part exchange.*

par-the-no-gen-e-sis /,pɑːθə'nəʊ'dʒenɪsɪs/ || pɑːr-/ *n* [U] *tech* the production of a new plant or animal from a female without sexual union with a male

Par-the-non /'pɑːθɪnən/ || 'pɑːrθənən/ [the] a temple to the goddess Athena on the ACROPOLIS in Athens; the most famous example of a Greek temple, and visited by many people

par-tial /'pɑːʃəl/ || 'pɑːr-/ *adj* **1** not complete: *a partial success/recovery* **2 derog** showing special favour to one person, side, etc., *esp.* in a way that is unfair —opposite **impartial** **3** [F+to] *infml* having a strong liking or taste for: *I'm very partial to cream cakes.* —see also PARTIALLY

par-ti-al-i-ty /,pɑːʃi'ælɪti/ || pɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] *derog* being PARTIAL (2); BIAS —opposite **impartiality** **2** [S (for)] a special liking or fondness: *a partiality for cream cakes*

par-tial-ly /'pɑːʃəli/ || 'pɑːr-/ *adv* **1** not completely; partly: *He was (only) partially to blame for the accident.* **2 derog** in a PARTIAL (2) way

par-tic-i-pant /pɑː'tɪsɪpənt/ || pɑːr-/ *n* [(in)] a person who takes part or has a share in an activity or event: *All participants in the race should give their names to the starter.*

par-tic-i-pate /pɑː'tɪsɪpeɪt/ || pɑːr-/ *v* [I (in)] *rather fml* to take part or have a share in an activity or event: *Everyone in the class is expected to participate in these discussions.* —**pation** /pɑː'tɪsɪ'peɪʃən/ || pɑːr-/ *n* [U (in)] : *They want greater participation in the decision-making process.*

par-ti-cip-i-al /,pɑːtɪ'sɪpiəl/ || pɑːr-/ *adj tech* (in grammar) being or using a participle: *"Singing" in "a singing bird" is a participial adjective.* — *~ly adv*

par-ti-ci-ple /'pɑːtɪsɪpəl/ || 'pɑːr-/ *n tech* (in grammar) a NON-FINITE verb form that can be used in compound forms of the verb or as an adjective. English has two participles, the PAST PARTICIPLE and the PRESENT PARTICIPLE.

par-ti-cle /'pɑːtɪkəl/ || 'pɑːr-/ *n* **1** [(of)] a very small piece:

dust particles floating in the sunlight | (fig.) *There wasn't a particle of truth in what he said.* —see also ELEMENTARY PARTICLE **2** (in grammar) any of a number of usu. short words that are not as important in a sentence as the subject, verb, etc.: *Prepositions and conjunctions are particles.*

particle ac-cel-e-ra-tor /'... -ɪ, -eɪ-/ *n* ACCELERATOR (2)

particle phys-ics /'... -ɪkz/ || n [U] the study of the formation and behaviour of ELEMENTARY PARTICLES (=very small bits of matter inside atoms)

par-ti-col-oured /,pɑːti 'kɒləd/ || ,pɑːrti 'kɒlərd/ *adj* having different colours in different parts

par-tic-u-lar¹ /pə'tɪkjʊləʳ/ || pər-/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] deserving special notice or attention; unusual: *There was nothing in the letter of particular importance.* | *There's no particular reason why you shouldn't go.* **2** [A *no comp.*] single and different from others; considered separately: *This particular case is an exception to the rule.* | *Shall I just order beer, or is there some particular type you prefer?* **3** [(about, over)] showing (too) much care or interest in small matters: *He's very particular about having his breakfast at exactly 8 o'clock.* | *She's very particular about her food.* (=chooses it carefully and will not eat certain kinds) [+wh-] *I'm not particular* (=do not care) *how you do it as long as it gets done.* **4** [A] *fml* careful and exact: *a full and particular account of what happened*

particular² *n* **1 fml** a small single part of a whole; detail: *This work must be correct in every particular/in all particulars.* **2 in particular** especially: *I noticed his eyes in particular, because they were such an unusual colour.* —see also PARTICULARS

par-tic-u-lar-i-ty /pə'tɪkjʊlə'ɪti/ || pər-/ *n fml* **1** [U] exactness; attention to detail **2** [C] a particular **3** [C] something strange or unusual; PECULIARITY

par-tic-u-lar-ize also **-ise** BrE /pə'tɪkjʊləraɪz/ || pər-/ *v* [I; T] *fml* to give the details of (something) one by one; ITEMIZE —**ization** /pə'tɪkjʊləraɪ'zeɪʃən/ || pər, tɪkjʊləreɪ-/ *n* [U]

par-tic-u-lar-ly /pə'tɪkjʊləli/ || pər'tɪkjʊləli/ *adv* especially; in a way that is special and different from others: *I particularly like this one.* | *He isn't particularly clever.* | *Watch that horse particularly — it bites!*

par-tic-u-lars /pə'tɪkjʊləz/ || pər'tɪkjʊlərz/ *n* [P (of)] detailed information or facts: *The policeman took down her particulars.* (=wrote down her name, address, etc.) | *I'd like you to give us full particulars of the incident.*

part-ing¹ /'pɑːtɪŋ/ || 'pɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C; U] (an example of) the action of parting (PART² (1, 2)) **2** [C] BrE || **part** AmE— the line on a person's head where the hair is parted (PART² (3)): *a centre parting* **3 the parting of the ways** the point at which two people must separate or a choice must be made

parting² *adj* [A] done or given at the time of parting (PART² (1)): *a parting kiss*

parting shot /,pɑːtɪŋ 'ʃɒt/ || n a last remark, special look, etc., made at the moment of leaving, *esp.* as the last reply in an argument

Par-ti Qué-bé-fois /,pɑːti keɪbe'kwɑː/ || pɑːr-/ a political party in the PROVINCE of Quebec, Canada, which wants Quebec to become a separate country

par-ti-san¹, **-zan** /,pɑːtɪ'sæn/ || 'pɑːrtɪzən, -sən/ *adj usu.* *derog* showing strong often unreasoning support of a particular party, group, plan, etc., and dislike of any others: *a very partisan speech/newspaper*

partisan², **-zan** *n* **1** a member of an armed group that fights in secret against an enemy that has defeated its country —compare TERRORIST **2 usu. derog** a partisan person — *~ship n* [U]

par-ti-tion¹ /pɑː'tɪʃən/ || pər-, pɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C] something that separates, *esp.* a thin wall inside a building that divides a larger room: *You could hear what he was saying on the phone through the partition.* | *a glass partition* —see picture at OPEN-PLAN **2** [U (into)] division, *esp.* of a country, into two or more parts: *India before partition* (=division into India and Pakistan)

partition² *v* [T (into)] to divide into two or more parts **partition sthg.** ↔ **off phr v** [T] to make (*esp.* a part of a room) separate by means of a partition

par-ti-tive /'pɑːtɪtɪv/ || 'pɑːr-/ *n, adj tech* (a word) which expresses a part of a whole: *"Some" is a partitive word, as in the phrase "some of the cake".* — *~ly adv*

part-ly /'pɑ:tlɪ||'pɑ:r-/ *adv* in some way or in some degree; not completely: *What you say is partly true.* | *We are all partly to blame.* | *a partly-finished building.*

part-ner¹ /'pɑ:tnəʳ||'pɑ:r-/ *n* 1 either of two people sharing an activity, such as dancing together or playing together against two others in certain games 2 any of the owners of a business, who share the profits and losses rather than receiving regular pay: *She's a partner in a law firm.* —see also SLEEPING PARTNER 3 a person who shares and helps in the same stated activity: *They were partners in crime.* —compare COMPANION (1,2) 4 either of two people who have a relationship that is both sexual and social, esp. if they are living together (—see also COHABIT): *This is John, my partner.*

partner² *v* [T] 1 to act as partner to: *John partnered Jane at the dance.* 2 [(UP, WITH)] to provide (someone) with a partner or bring (two people) together as partners

partner up *phr v* [I (WITH)] to become a partner or partners: *John and Mary have partnered up for the dance.*

part-ner-ship /'pɑ:tnəʃɪp||'pɑ:rtnər-/ *n* 1 [U] the state of being a partner, esp. in business: *We've been in partnership for five years.* | *She's gone into partnership with two of the other local doctors.* 2 [C] a business owned by two or more partners 3 [C] (in cricket) the total number of runs scored by two batsmen (BATSMAN) batting together in a match

part of speech /,· · '·/ *n tech* (in grammar) any of the classes into which words are divided according to their use: "Noun", "verb", and "adjective" are parts of speech. —see also PRINCIPAL PARTS

Par-ton /'pɑ:tn||'pɑ:r-/ *Dolly* (1946–) an American popular music singer, songwriter and GUITAR player who started as a COUNTRY AND WESTERN singer and has become an actress and well-known television personality in the US. She is known for her unusually large breasts, her thick white hair, her bright personality and her attractive singing voice.

Dolly Parton



par-took /pɑ:'tʊk||pɑ:r-/ *past tense of PARTAKE*

par-tridge /'pɑ:trɪdʒ||'pɑ:r-/ *n*

partridges or partridge any of various middle-size birds, with a round body and short tail, shot for sport and food. In Britain partridge is one of the more expensive foods and shooting them is a generally UPPER-CLASS sport.

parts /pɑ:ts||pɑ:rts/ *n* [P] 1 a general area or division of a country, without fixed limits: *We don't have much rain in these parts.* | *She lives in foreign parts.* (=abroad) 2 **of parts lit or pomp** of many different abilities (in the phrase **a man/woman of parts**) 3 *infml* SPARE PARTS —see also PRIVATE PARTS

part-song /'· ·/ *n* a song which is made up of three or more musical lines sung together

part-time /,· · '·/ *adj, adv* working or giving work during only a part of the regular working time: *a part-time secretary/student* | *He got a part-time job washing dishes.* —compare FULL-TIME —**part-timer** *n*: *We have three full-time staff, and a part-timer who works mornings.*

par-tu-ri-tion /,pɑ:tɪʒ'ɪʃən||,pɑ:rtə-, -tʃə-/ *n* [U] *med* the act of giving birth

part-way /,· · '·/ *adv infml* slightly, a little: *If he were only part-way competent, I'd be satisfied.*

part work /'· ·/ *n BrE* a set of magazines on one particular subject that are produced usu. once a week and can be put together to form a book

par-ty¹ /'pɑ:ti||'pɑ:rti/ *n* 1 an occasion when people meet together, usu. by invitation and often in a private home, to enjoy themselves, e.g. by eating and drinking, dancing, etc.: *We're having/giving/throwing a party on New Year's Eve.* | *a tea party* | *a birthday party* | *a garden party* | *a party dress* —compare FESTIVAL, HOLIDAY, see also HEN PARTY, HOUSE PARTY, STAG PARTY 2 [+sing./pl. v] a group of people a doing something together: *A party of schoolchildren is going to France.* **b** given a special duty together: *a search party* —see also WORKING PARTY 3 [+sing./pl. v] an association of people having the same

political aims, esp. as formed to try to win elections: *the Labour party* | *party politics* | *an all-party committee* | *Politicians shouldn't put party before country.* | *He always follows the party line.* (=acts according to its official opinion) | *one of the party faithful* (=loyal members of the party) 4 a person or group of people concerned or taking part in an agreement, argument, or other activity, esp. a legal matter: *the two parties* (=groups of people) *in the quarrel* | *Are you (a) party to the agreement?* | *I could never be a party to such dishonesty.* | *We know he is the guilty party, because we saw him take the money.* —see also THIRD PARTY

party² *v* [I] *infml, esp. AmE* to enjoy oneself, esp. at a party or parties

Party Con-fer-ence /,· · '·/ *n* (in Britain) the yearly meeting of a political party when plans for the coming year are discussed

party game /'· · ,·/ *n* a game played at esp. a children's party

party line /'· · ,·/ *n* a telephone line connected to two or more telephones belonging to different people —see also PARTY¹ (3)

party piece /'· · ,·/ *n usu. humor* a song, poem, etc. that is someone's usual choice when they are asked to give a performance, e.g. at a party

party-po-lit-i-cal /,· · · '·/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* connected or concerned with party politics: *fruitless party-political wranglings* | *an issue of purely party-political interest*

party-political broad-cast /,· · · · · '·/ *BrE* || **paid political broadcast** *AmE*— *n* a television programme, broadcast esp. before a General Election, in which a politician asks the public to vote for his/her party and gives reasons why he/she thinks they should do so. Party political broadcasts last only a few minutes, and in Britain all parties making these broadcasts are allowed the same amount of time.

party pol-i-tics /,· · '·/ *n* [U+sing./pl.v] political activity done by a party in order to improve its own structure, to gain more power, etc., rather than for the good of other organizations or the public: *She wanted to change society but found herself bogged down in party politics.*

party poop-er /'pɑ:ti ,pu:pəʳ||'pɑ:r-/ *n infml* a dull or unfriendly person who does not enjoy being with other people, spoils their fun, etc.

party wall /,· · '·/ *n* a dividing wall between two houses, belonging to the owners of both houses

par val-ue /'· · ,·/ *n* [U] PAR¹ (3)

par-ve-nu /'pɑ:vənju:||'pɑ:rvənu:/ *n usu. derog* a person of a low social position who suddenly gains power or wealth

Pas-cal /pɑ:'skæl/, **Blaise** /bleɪz/ (1623–62) a French scientist and religious thinker (PHILOSOPHER), noted for his work in MATHEMATICS and PHYSICS and for his religious writings in which he argues that faith is needed to understand the universe

PASCAL /'pæskæl||pæ'skæl/ *n* [U] a computer language used esp. when teaching computer studies and with small computers in business: *Do you use PASCAL?*

pas-chal /'pæskəl/ *adj* [A] (often *cap.*) 1 of the Jewish holiday of Passover 2 *lit or old use* of Easter: *the Paschal lamb*

pas de deux /,pɑ: də 'dʒ: ||-'du:/ *n pas de deux* a dance, esp. in BALLET, for two people dancing together

Pas-o-li-ni /pæsə'li:ni/, **Pier Pao-lo** /pjeəʳ 'pauləʊ/ (1922–75) an Italian film director who was murdered. His films include *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, *Medea*, and *Oedipus Rex*

pass¹ /pɑ:s||pæs/ *v* 1 [I (BY);T] to reach and move beyond (a person or place): *She waved at me as she passed (by).* | *It's dangerous to pass* (=OVERTAKE other cars) *on this narrow road.* | *I passed the pub on my way to the library.* | (fig.) *It passes my understanding/comprehension* (=I cannot understand) *how he could have done such a stupid thing.* 2 [I+adv/prep;T+obj+adv/prep] to go, move, or place, esp. in or for a short space of time: *A cloud passed across the sun.* | *She passed amongst the crowd distributing leaflets.* | *We pass through Germany on our way to Austria.* | *The news quickly passed round the hall.* | *His famous exploits have passed into folklore.* | *She passed the rope round the tree.* | (fig.) *Angry words passed between them.* 3 [I;T] to get or go through, across, over, or

between: *The crowd parted to let the coach pass.* | *The smugglers passed the frontier without being searched.* | *Sales of the book have now passed the million mark.* (=more than a million have been sold) **4** [I (AWAY)] to come to an end or disappear: *The storm soon passed (away).* | *Your sorrow will soon pass.* **5** [T (to)] to move (something) from one person to another, esp. by hand; give: [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Pass me the salt, please — I can't quite reach it.* | *He passed her the bread/passed the bread to her.* | *Could you pass (me) that book down from the top shelf?* **6** [I;T (to)] (in various sports) to kick, throw, hit, etc. (esp. a ball), esp. to a member of one's own side: *He passed (the ball) back to the goalkeeper.* **7** [I;T] **a** (of time) to go by: *The hours passed slowly.* **b** to spend (time), esp. in a way that does not seem too long or dull: *On the train journey, we played cards to pass the time.* **8** [I+adv/prep, esp. from, to, into] to change: *When you melt ice, it passes from a solid to a liquid state.* **9** [I;T] **a** to officially approve or be approved, esp. after a vote: *Parliament has passed a law to restrict immigration.* **b** to accept or be accepted as satisfactory, esp. after an examination: *I can't pass this bad piece of work!* | *The doctor wouldn't pass him (as) fit/ready for work.* | *You might be able to get into a disco in those clothes, but they won't pass in this office!* **10** [I;T] to succeed in (an examination): *"Did you pass your driving test?" "No, I failed."* **11** [T] to cause (money) to be accepted, esp. by illegal or dishonest means: [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Someone tried to pass me a forged £10 note.* **12** [T (on, upon)] to give or express (a judgment, opinion, remark, etc.): *I wouldn't like to pass an opinion on such a complicated subject.* | *The judge passed a heavy sentence on her.* | *He passed some comment or other, but I didn't hear what it was.* | *He stopped to pass the time of day* (=to have a short conversation) *with a neighbour.* **13** [I+adv/prep, esp. to, into] to go from the control or possession of one person to that of another: *On his death, the farm will pass to his son/into the hands of the state.* **14** [I] (in card games) to let one's turn go by without playing a card, putting down money, or making a BID² (3) **15** [I] to give no answer to a question because you do not know the answer: *I think I'll pass on that one.* | *"Who was the President of the US in 1956?" "Pass."* **16** [T] *fml* to send out from the bowels or BLADDER: *to pass water* (=to URINATE) **17** [I] *fml* or *bibl* to happen: *How can such a terrible state of affairs have come to pass* (=happened); *what can have brought it to pass?* **18** let something pass to leave (a wrong statement, mistake, etc.) without putting it right: *He said Shakespeare was an American and I couldn't let that pass.* —see also PASSING, pass the hat round (HAT), pass muster (MUSTER²); see PAST (USAGE)

pass as sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to PASS for

pass away/on *phr v* [I] *euph* (esp. of a person) to die: *She passed away in her sleep.* —see DEAD¹ (CULTURAL NOTE)

pass sbdy. ↔ **by/over** *phr v* [T] to pay no attention to; take no notice of: *The voters passed him by.* | *Life has passed me by.*

pass sthg. ↔ **down/on** *phr v* [T (to) often pass.] to give or leave to people who are younger or live later: *a skill that has been passed down from father to son*

pass for/as sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to be (mistakenly) accepted or considered as: *His English is so good he could pass as a native.* | *I can't imagine how this place passes for a five-star hotel! The service is dreadful.*

pass off *phr v* **1** [I+adv/prep] to take place and be completed: *The meeting passed off well.* **2** [T (as)] (pass sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off**) to present falsely: *She passed herself off as an experienced actress.* —compare PALM off (1)

pass on *phr v* **1** [I] *euph* to die; PASS away **2** [T] to PASS down **3** [I] to move on: *Let us now pass on to the next subject.* **4** [T] (pass sthg. ↔ **on**) to give to another person: *Read the note then pass it on.*

pass out *phr v* **1** [I] to faint: *He always passes out at the sight of blood.* **2** [I] *esp. BrE* to finish a course esp. at a military school: *a passing-out parade* **3** [T] (pass sthg. ↔ **out**) to give out: DISTRIBUTE (3)

pass over *phr v* [T] **1** (pass sbdy. ↔ **over**) to PASS by: *He was passed over for promotion/in favour of a younger man.* **2** (pass over sthg.) to try not to notice or mention: *Let us pass over his rude remarks in silence.*

pass sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to fail to take advantage of; miss: *I had a chance to go to America, but I passed it up.*

pass² n **1** [C] an act of moving past: *The aircraft made a*

few passes over the enemy camp, but didn't drop any bombs. **2** [C] an official piece of paper with writing on it which shows that one is allowed to do a certain thing, such as travel on a train or bus without paying, enter a building, etc.: *We had to show our passes to the security guard.* —see also FREE PASS **3** [C] a successful result in an examination: *a pass in geography* **b** (esp. in Britain) the completing of a university course with an examination standard that is acceptable but not good enough for HONOURS (2): *a pass degree* **4** [C] (in various sports) an act of passing (PASS¹ (6)) a ball **5** a way by which one may move or travel through or over a place, esp. over a range of mountains: *the Brenner Pass* | *the landslide blocked the pass.* —see picture at MOUNTAIN **6** [S] *BrE infml* a difficult state or condition: *Things have come to a pretty/fine/sorry pass if we can't even afford beer!* **7** [C] a single complete stage in a process of dealing with something: *This is just the first pass, when we discard the most unsuitable candidates.* **8** **make a pass at sl** (esp. of a man) to invite or attempt sexual activity, either with words or by trying to touch (a member of the opposite sex)

pass. *abbrev. for:* PASSIVE¹ (2)

pass-able /'pɑːsəbəl/ || 'pæ-/ *adj* **1** (just) good enough to be accepted; satisfactory but not very good: *a passable piece of work* **2** (of a road or river) that can be travelled along or across —opposite IMPASSABLE —**bly** *adv*

pas-sage /'pæsɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] also **pas-sage-way** /'pæsɪdʒweɪ/ *BrE* || also **hall, hallway** *AmE* —a long narrow connecting way, esp. inside a building; CORRIDOR: *Her room is just along the passage.* **2** [C (through)] *esp. BrE* a usu. narrow way through; opening: *We forced a passage through the crowd.* **3** [U (of)] *fml* the action of going across, by, over, through, etc., something: *The old bridge is not strong enough to allow the passage of heavy vehicles.* | (fig.) *The bill was amended several times during its passage through Parliament.* **4** [U (of)] the course (of time): *With the passage of time the incident was forgotten.* **5** [S (from, to)] (the cost of) a journey, esp. by sea or air: *He couldn't afford the passage, and so he had to work his passage by doing jobs on the ship.* | *We had a rough passage.* **6** [C] a usu. short part of a speech or a piece of writing or music, considered by itself —see also PURPLE PASSAGE, rites of passage (RITE)

Passage to In-di-a /,pɑːsɪdʒ tuː ɪnˈdiːə/ *A* a NOVEL by E M Forster about misunderstandings between people of different countries, in this case, Britain and India. It has been made into a successful film.

pas-sant /'pæsn||pɑː'sɑːn/ see EN PASSANT

pass-book /'pɑːsbʊk||'pæs-/ *n* **1** **a** a book in which a record of the money one puts into and takes out of a BUILDING SOCIETY is kept **b** *AmE* for BANKBOOK **2** (in S Africa before 1987) a small book which non-white people had to carry which allowed them to be in a certain area

pas-sé /'pɑːseɪ, 'pæseɪ||pæ'seɪ/ *adj* [F] *derog* no longer considered modern; old-fashioned

pas-sen-ger /'pæsnɪdʒər, -sən-/ *n* **1** a person, not the driver, travelling in a public or private vehicle: *This bus can carry 60 passengers.* | *a passenger train* | *The driver and both passengers were unhurt in the accident.* **2** *BrE derog* a member of a team or other group who does not do his or her share of the group's work

Passe-par-tout /,pæspɑː'tuː||-pɑːr-/ a character in Jules Verne's story *Around the World in 80 Days*, Phileas Fogg's servant and travelling-companion —see also Phileas FOGG

pass-er-by /,pɑːsə'baɪ||,pæsər-/ *n* **passersby** /-səz-||-sərz-/ a person who (by chance) is walking, driving, etc. past a place: *A few passersby saw the accident.*

pas-sim /'pæsɪm/ *adv tech* (of a phrase, idea, etc., that appears in a book, a writer's work, etc.) frequently; in many places: *For further information, see chapter six passim.*

pass-ing¹ /'pɑːsɪŋ||'pæ-/ *n* [U (of)] **1** the act of going by: *With the passing of the years he grew more and more ill-tempered.* **2** a ending; disappearance: *The old government was voted out, and few people mourned its passing.* **b** *euph* death **3** **in passing** in the course of a statement, esp. one about a different matter: *He was talking about his holiday in Spain, and he mentioned in passing that you were thinking of going there next year.*

passing² *adj* [A] 1 moving or going by: *He watched the passing cars.* | *With every passing day she grew stronger.* | a **passing shot** in tennis (=that passes one's opponent) 2 not lasting very long; BRIEF: *She did not give the matter even a passing thought.* | a *passing reference*

passing³ *adv* *old use* very: *passing strange*

passing shot /'pɑːsɪŋ ʃɒt/ *n* (in TENNIS) a shot that hits the ball to one side and beyond the reach of an opponent who is coming towards the net

pas-sion /'pæʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U (for)] (a) strong, deep, often uncontrollable feeling, esp. of sexual love, hatred, or anger: *The poet expressed his burning passion for the woman he loved.* | a *political meeting where passions ran high* (=people expressed strong feelings) 2 [S] a sudden show of anger or bad temper: *She gets into a passion if you contradict her.* 3 [S+for] *infml* a strong liking: *a passion for (collecting) antiques* —see also CRIME OF PASSION — ~ *less adj* — ~ *lessly adv*

Passion [the] *n tech* the suffering and death of Christ

pas-sion-ate /'pæʃənət/ *adj* 1 able to feel strongly with passion: *a passionate woman* 2 showing or filled with passion: *a passionate speech in defence of freedom* 3 very eager; INTENSE: *a passionate interest in sports* — ~ *ly adv*: *He believes passionately in the justice of his cause.*

pas-sion-flow-er /'pæʃənˌflaʊər/ *n* any of various types of climbing plant with large flowers, usu. growing in warm countries, some of which produce an egg-shaped fruit (passionfruit) which is good to eat

passion play /'pæʃənˌpleɪ/ *n* (often *cap.* first P) a play telling the story of the Passion —compare NATIVITY PLAY

Passion Sun-day /ˌpæʃənˈsʌndi/ the second Sunday before Easter in the Christian church, when special prayers are said

pas-sive¹ /'pæsiʋ/ *adj* 1 *sometimes derog* accepting what happens or what other people do to one, but not doing anything in return; suffering without opposition: *They received the news of their defeat with passive resignation.* | *How can you be so passive? Why don't you retaliate?* | *They mounted a campaign of passive resistance against the occupiers.* (=opposing them without using violence) 2 [no comp.] *tech* (of a verb or sentence) having as the subject the person or thing to which an action is done (as in *The boy was thrown from his horse*) —compare ACTIVE¹ (3) — ~ *ly adj*

passive² also **passive voice** /ˌpæsiʋˈvɔɪs/ *n* [the+S] *tech* the passive form of a verb: *"The ball was kicked by the boy" is in the passive.* —compare ACTIVE²

passive smok-ing /ˌpæsiʋˈsmɒkɪŋ/ *n* [U] the breathing in of smoke from the cigarettes, PIPES, etc. that other people are smoking, now considered to be almost as harmful to health as actually smoking yourself

pas-siv-i-ty /pæˈsiʋɪti/ also **pas-sive-ness** /'pæsiʋnɪs/ *n* [U] *sometimes derog* the quality of being PASSIVE¹ (1)

pas-siv-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'pæsiʋaɪz/ *v* [I;T] *tech* to (cause to) become PASSIVE¹ (2) —**-ization** /ˌpæsiʋaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pass-key /'pɑːs-kiː/ *n* 1 a key made to open a particular door or gate, and given only to those few people allowed to use that door or gate 2 a key that will open a number of different locks, all of which have keys of their own

pass laws /'pɑːs-ˌlɔː/ *n* [P] South African laws which formerly controlled or prevented the movement of black people from place to place. The pass laws were stopped as part of the end of APARTHEID.

Pass-o-ver /'pɑːsəʊvər/ *n* [(the)] (in the Jewish religion) a religious holiday in memory of the escape of the Jews from being slaves in Egypt. Passover is one of the most important Jewish holidays and takes place in the spring.

pass-port /'pɑːspɔːrt/ *n* 1 a small official book given by a government to a citizen, which proves who that person is and allows them to leave their country and enter foreign countries: *She holds (=has) a French passport.* 2 [(to)] something, such as a quality or possession, that makes it possible for a person to do or get something desirable: *He thought that money was a passport to happiness/to high society*

passport con-trol /'pɑːspɔːrt ˌkɒntrɒl/ *n* where one's passport is checked when leaving and entering a country

pass the par-cel /ˌpɑːs ðə ˈpɑːsl/ *n* [U] a British game played esp.

at children's parties, in which a parcel wrapped in many sheets of paper is passed from player to player while music is played. When the music stops, the player holding the parcel tries to unwrap as much paper as possible from the parcel before the music starts again. The game ends when a player unwraps the parcel completely and receives a prize which was inside it.

pass-word /'pɑːswɜːd/ *n* 1 a secret word or phrase which must be spoken by a person before they are allowed to enter a building, camp, etc. <> they are used as a safety measure to prevent the wrong people from entering 2 a secret group of letters, numbers, etc., which must be used by a person before they can operate a computer system

past¹ /pɑːst/ *adj* 1 [A;after *n*] (of time) much earlier than the present: *In years past/past years they never would have done that.* 2 [A;after *n*] (with perfect tenses) (of time) a little earlier than the present; up until now or until the time of speaking: *I've not been feeling very well for the past few days.* | *I've been meaning to speak to you for some time past.* 3 finished; ended: *The time for talking is past — we need action!* | *Winter is past and spring has come.* 4 [A] former; PREVIOUS: *Judging by past performance, I expect her to do well.* | *a past president of our club* 5 [A] *tech* being the form of a verb used to show a past act or state: *the past tense* —compare FUTURE¹

▷ USAGE The past participle of **pass** is **passed**, but the adjective is **past**. Compare *The week has passed quickly* and *the past week*.◀

past² *prep* 1 a farther than: *The hospital is about a mile past the school.* b up to and beyond: *The boys rushed past us.* 2 beyond in time or age: *The time is half past three.* | *The trains leave at ten past (the hour).* | *It's past my bedtime.* | *She must be past 50.* 3 beyond the possibility of: *The sick man's condition is past hope.* | *Frankly, I'm past caring.* (=I no longer care) 4 **past it** *infml* no longer able to do the things one could formerly do: *This old car's past it; we'll have to get a new one.* 5 **wouldn't put it past someone (to do something)** *infml* to regard someone as likely (to do something bad, unusual, etc.): *I'm not sure if he actually cheated in the exam, but I wouldn't put it past him!*

past³ *n* 1 [(the) S] (what happened in) time before the present: *In the past he has been a bricklayer and a milkman, and now he's a farmer.* | *Good manners seem to have become a thing of the past.* (=something that no longer exists) | *a country with a glorious past* (=history) —compare FUTURE¹ 2 [the+S] *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows that the act or state described by the verb happened or existed at some time before the present moment 3 [S] *old-fash derog* a former life, esp. a secret one containing wrong-doing of some kind: *a woman with a past*

past⁴ *adv* by; to and beyond a point in space or time: *Children came running past.* | *Days went past without any news.*

pas-ta /'pæstə/ *n* [U] food made, in various different shapes, from flour paste, and often covered with SAUCE and/or cheese: *Macaroni, spaghetti, and vermicelli are all types of pasta.*

► CULTURAL NOTE Pasta is generally thought of as Italian food, but is widely eaten in Britain and the US at home and in restaurants.◀

paste¹ /peɪst/ *n* [C;U] 1 a soft sticky mixture of powder and liquid that is easily shaped or spread: *Add water, mix it into a paste, and fill the cracks with it.* | *Marzipan is made from almond paste.* —see also TOOTHPASTE 2 a thin mixture, esp. of flour and water, used for sticking paper together or onto other surfaces —compare GLUE 3 a food made by crushing solid foods into a smooth soft mass, used for spreading on bread: *meat paste* | *fish paste* —compare PÂTÉ 4 a shining material made of lead and glass, used to copy the appearance of real jewels: *They're not diamonds, they're only paste.*

paste² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to stick or fasten (paper) with paste: *A notice was pasted to/on the door.* | *Paste down the edge of the paper.* | *Notices about the demonstration were pasted up (on walls) all over the university.* —see also PASTE-UP, PASTING

paste-board¹ /'peɪstbɔːd/ *n* [U] flat stiff cardboard made by pasting sheets of paper together

pasteboard² *adj* [A] *derog* lacking strength or reality; CARDBOARD² (2): *a play full of pasteboard characters*

pas-tel¹ /'pæstl||pæ'stel/ *n* 1 [C;U] (a small stick of) a solid chalklike substance made of powdery colouring matter used for drawing 2 [C] a picture drawn using this substance 3 [C] any soft light colour

pastel² *adj* [A] 1 drawn in pastels 2 soft and light in colour: *pastel shades* | *pastel blue*

pas-tern /'pæstɜ:n||-zɜ:n/ *n* the narrow upper part of a horse's foot, above the HOOF —see picture at HORSE

Pas-ter-nak /'pæstənæk||-tər-/ , **Bor-is** /'bɒrɪs||'bɔ:-/ (1890–1960) a Russian poet, NOVELIST, and translator who wrote *Doctor Zhivago*, which was banned (BAN) in the USSR. In 1958 he won the Nobel Prize, but the Soviet government of the time did not approve and he did not accept it.

paste-up /'pæst-/-/ *n* pieces of printed matter, pictures, etc., stuck in position (as if) on a page, either to be photographed for a real page or to show what the page will look like when the book, newspaper, etc., is produced

Pas-teur /pæ'stɜ:-/ , **Louis** (1822–95) a French scientist known for his studies of FERMENTATION and bacteria; inventor of the process of pasteurization

pas-teur-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'pæstʃəraɪz, 'pæ:-, -stə-||'pæstʃə-, -stə-/ *v* [T] to heat (a liquid) in a certain way in order to destroy bacteria: *pasteurized milk* —**ization** /,pæstʃəraɪ'zeɪʃən, 'pæ:-, -stə-||,pæstʃərə-, -stərə-/ *n* [U]

pas-tiche /pæ'sti:tʃ/ *n* 1 [C (of)] a work of art, such as a piece of writing or music, that is purposely made in the style of a another writer, musician, etc. 2 [C] a work of art made up of pieces of various other works put together 3 [U] the style or practice of making works of art in either of these ways

pas-tille /pæ'sti:l/ || also **lozenge** *esp. AmE*— *n* a small round hard sweet, esp. one containing a medicine for a sore throat

pas-time /'pæstaim||'pæs-/ *n* something done to pass one's time in a pleasant way: *Listening to music is my favourite pastime.*

past-ing /'peɪstɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* 1 a hard beating: *You'll get a real pasting if the teacher finds out what you've done!* 2 (in sport or other sorts of competition) a severe defeat

past mas-ter /,pæst-/-/ *n* [(at, in, of)] a person who is very clever or skilled in a particular subject or action: *He's a past master at getting free drinks/in the art of conversation.*

pas-tor /'pæstə||'pæ-/ *n* a Christian religious leader in charge of a church and its members, esp. in a Protestant church, other than the Church of England

pas-tor-al¹ /'pæstərəl||'pæ-/ *adj* 1 of the members of a religious group, or its leader's duties towards them: *The priest/rabbi makes pastoral visits every Tuesday.* | *a teacher's pastoral duties* (=giving advice on personal matters rather than educational matters) 2 *esp. lit* concerning simple peaceful country life: *a charming pastoral scene of cows drinking from a stream* | *pastoral poetry* 3 (of land) grassy; suitable for feeding sheep and cattle

pastoral² also **pastoral let-ter** /,pæst-/-/ *n tech* an official letter sent by a BISHOP to the church members in his area

past par-ti-ci-ple /,pæst-/-/ also **perfect participle**— *n tech* (in grammar) a PARTICIPLE that can be used in compound forms of the verb to show the PASSIVE or the PERFECT¹ (6) tenses (such as *broken* in *The cup was broken by John* or *I have broken the cup*) or sometimes as an adjective (such as *broken* in *a broken cup*)

past per-fect /,pæst-/-/ also **pluperfect**— *n* [*the*] *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows that the action described by the verb was completed before a particular time in the past (stated or understood), formed in English with **had** and a past participle —**past perfect** *adj*

pas-tra-mi /pə'stræ:mi/ *n* [U] (*esp. in the US*) very strong-tasting BEEF dried in smoke

pas-try /'peɪstri/ *n* 1 [U] a mixture of flour, fat, milk or water, and sometimes sugar, eaten when baked, used esp. to enclose other foods: *The pie crust is made of pastry.* 2 [C] an article of food, esp. a small sweet cake, made wholly or partly of this —see also DANISH PASTRY

pas-tur-age /'pæstʃərɪdʒ||'pæs-/ *n* [U] 1 the right to use land for feeding one's cattle, horses, etc. 2 also **pas-ture-land** /'pæstʃəlænd||'pæstʃər-/— (natural) grass-land suitable for feeding cattle on

pas-ture¹ /'pæstʃər||'pæs-/ **pas-ture-land** /'pæstʃəlænd||'pæstʃər-/ *n* [C;U] 1 (a piece of) grassy land where farm animals feed: *the rolling pastures of southern England* | *We're putting our cattle out to pasture.* (=to feed on grass) | (fig.) *It's about time this old sewing machine was put out to pasture.* (=got rid of) —compare ARABLE 2 fresh fields and pastures new *quote* a slightly changed phrase from a poem by John Milton, used when saying that someone is moving on to a new place or a new activity

pasture² *v* 1 [T] to put (farm animals) in a pasture to feed: *He's pasturing his cattle on the top meadow.* 2 [I(on)] (of cattle, sheep, etc.) to feed on an area of growing grass; GRAZE¹

pas-ty¹ /'pæsti/ *n BrE* a small case of pastry, filled usu. with meat —see also CORNISH PASTY

past-y² /'peɪsti/ *adj* (of the face) white and unhealthy in appearance

pasty-faced /'peɪsti feɪst/ *adj usu. derog* having a white and unhealthy-looking face

pat¹ /pæt/ *n* 1 [C] a light-stroke with the flat hand, usu. showing friendliness and not intended to hurt: *He gave the dog a pat as he walked past.* 2 [S] a sound made by hitting something lightly with a flat object 3 [C (of)] a small shaped mass, esp. of butter 4 a pat on the back *infml* an expression of praise or satisfaction for something done: *We don't want a pat on the back from the management — we want more money!*

pat² *v* -tt- [T] 1 to touch or strike gently and repeatedly with the flat hand or a flat object, often to show, friendliness, sympathy, etc.: *He patted the dog.* | *She patted her hair to make sure it was tidy.* 2 pat someone/oneself on the back *infml* to praise someone/oneself for doing something well

pat³ *adv often derog* 1 without delay, as if already prepared: *The answer came pat.* 2 have/know something (off) pat *BrE* || have something down pat *AmE*— to know something thoroughly and have it ready in one's mind so that one can say it or write it immediately and without having to think

pat⁴ *adj often derog* (*esp. of words*) coming (too) easily or readily, as if already prepared: *His explanation was too pat to be convincing.*

patch¹ /pætʃ/ *n* 1 an often irregularly shaped part of a surface or space that is different, esp. in colour, from the surface or space round it: *The dog's coat is white with black patches.* | *wet patches on the wall* | *Patches of mist can be expected at dawn.* 2 a usu. small piece of material used to cover a hole or a damaged place: *He had a patch on the elbow of his jacket.* 3 a usu. small piece of ground, esp. as used for growing vegetables: *a potato patch* 4 a period of experience of the stated kind, esp. a time of trouble or misfortune: *Art in Britain is going through a bad patch at the moment.* | *Their marriage seems to have hit a difficult patch.* 5 also **eyepatch**— a protective piece of material worn over an eye that has been hurt 6 *BrE infml* a usu. small area in which someone, esp. a policeman, always works and which he/she knows very well 7 also **beauty patch**, **beauty spot**— (in the 17th and 18th centuries) a small round usu. black piece of silk or other material worn on the face, to show up the beauty of the skin 8 *AmE* a small piece of cloth with words or a picture on it: *a windbreaker with patches on it from all the places they had visited* 9 in patches in parts; not completely: *This film was good in patches, but I didn't like all of it.* —see also PATCHY (2) 10 not a patch on *BrE infml* not nearly as good as: *This Algerian wine isn't a patch on the French.*

patch² *v* [T] to put a PATCH¹ (2) on (a hole, worn place, etc.), esp. in (a garment): *patched trousers*

patch sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] 1 to settle (a quarrel or disagreement): *We managed to patch up our quarrel.* 2 to mend or repair quickly or roughly, esp. with a PATCH¹ (2): *patched-up jeans* | (fig.) *The doctors patched up the wounded soldiers and sent them back to the front again.*

patch-ou-li, **patchouly** /'pætʃʊli, pə'tʃu:li/ *n* the ESSENTIAL OIL from an E Indian heavy-smelling plant

patch pock-et /,· ˈ·/ *n* a pocket made by sewing a square piece of material onto the outside of a garment

patch-work /ˈpætʃwɜ:k||-wɜ:rk/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) sewn work made by joining together a number of pieces of cloth of different colours, patterns, and shapes: *a patch-work quilt|blanket* | (fig.) *From the aircraft we could see a patchwork of fields of different shapes and colours.*

patch-y /ˈpætʃi/ *adj* **1** made up of or appearing in patches (PATCH¹ (1)): *The sun has faded the curtains so the colours are rather patchy.* | *There will be patchy fog at dawn.* **2** *usu. derog a* incomplete: *My knowledge of science is patchy.* **b** only good in parts: *The concert was patchy.* —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

pate /peɪt/ *n* *old use or humor* the top of the head: *his bald pate*

pât-é /ˈpæteɪ||pɑ:ˈteɪ, pæ-/ *n* [U] a food made by crushing solid foods, esp. LIVER, into a smooth soft mass —compare PASTE¹ (3)

pâté de foie gras /,pæteɪ də ˈfwɑ: ˈgrɑ:||pɑ:ˈteɪ-, pæ-/ also **foie gras infml**— *n* [U] *Fr* pâté made from the LIVER of a GOOSE which has been fed a lot to make it fat. The best types are expensive and it is considered a LUXURY food.

pa-tel-la /pəˈtelə/ *n med* for KNEECAP¹ (1) —see picture at SKELETON

pa-tent¹ /ˈpeɪntnt, ˈpæ-||ˈpæ-/ *adj* **1 fml** (esp. of feelings or qualities) easy and plain to see; OBVIOUS: *his patent lack of honesty* **2** [A] protected, by a PATENT² (1), from being copied or sold by those who do not have a right to do so: *a patent lock* **3** [A] *infml* (of some act or skill invented by a particular person) cleverly made or done: *his patent way of making mayonnaise*

patent² *n* **1** a paper from the Patent Office of a government giving someone the right to make or sell a new invention for a certain number of years: *This new machine is protected by patent; the inventor has taken out a patent on it.* **2** the right given in such a paper: *The patent runs out in two years' time.*

patent³ *v* [T] to obtain a PATENT² (1) for: *If you don't patent your invention, someone might steal the idea.*

pa-tent-ee /,peɪntnˈti:z||,pæ-/ *n esp. law* a person to whom a PATENT² (1) is given

patent leath-er /,peɪntnt ˈleðəˈr-||,pæ-/ *n* [U] fine thin very shiny leather, usu. black: *patent-leather shoes*

pa-tent-ly /ˈpeɪntntli||ˈpæ-/ *adv fml* (of something bad) clearly and plainly: *He was patently lying.* | *It was patently obvious that he was lying.* | *a patently false statement*

patent medi-cine /,· ˈ·/ *n* a medicine which can be bought without a PRESCRIPTION (=a written order from a doctor saying that a person needs a particular medicine)

Patent Of-fice /ˈ· ˈ·/ [the] the British or American government department that decides which new inventions can be given patents. In the US the official name is the Patent and Trademark Office.

pa-ter /ˈpeɪtəː/ *n BrE* (sometimes *cap.*) father: *Good morning, pater.* The word was formerly used by young UPPER-CLASS people, esp. by boys at PUBLIC SCHOOL; now rarely used except humorously —compare MATER

pa-ter-fa-mi-li-as /,peɪtəfəˈmi:liæs||,pɑ:təfəˈmi:liəs/ *n* **patresfamilias** /,pɑ:treɪz-/ *fml or pomp* (a person acting as) the father or male head of a family

pa-ter-nal /pəˈtɜ:nl||-ɜ:r-/ *adj* **1** of, like, or natural to a father: *paternal love* —compare FATHERLY **2 derog** protecting people and satisfying their needs but without allowing them any freedom or responsibility: *The employees resented the bosses' paternal attitude.* **3** [A] related through the father's side of the family: *my paternal grandmother* (=my father's mother) —compare MATERNAL —*~ly adv*

pa-ter-nal-is-m /pəˈtɜ:nəl-ɪzəm||-ɜ:r-/ *n* [U] *derog* a PATER-NAL (2) way of controlling people, managing a company, etc. —*ist n* —*istic* /pəˈtɜ:nəlˈɪstɪk-||-ɜ:r-/ *adj* —*istically* /kli/ *adv*

pa-ter-ni-ty /pəˈtɜ:nɪti||-ɜ:r-/ *n* [U] **1 esp. law** origin from the male parent: *Tests are being made to establish the paternity of the child.* (=to find out who its father is) **2 fml** fatherhood: *Paternity suits you!* —compare MATERNITY¹ (1)

paternity leave /ˈ· ˈ· / *n* [U] time off work for the father of a new baby to help with its care. Very few British or

American employers give paternity leave. —compare MATERNITY LEAVE

pa-ter-nos-ter /,pætəˈnɒstəː||-tərˈnɑ:z-/ *n* (*usu. cap.*) (in the Christian religion) the LORD'S PRAYER, esp. in Latin (from the Latin for the first two words of the prayer which begins "Our Father...")

path /pɑ:θ||pæθ/ **paths** /pɑ:ðz||pæðz/ *n* **1** also **pathway**—a track or way made by or for people walking over the ground: *They strolled along/down the garden path.* | *Walk on the path, not on the grass/in the road.* | (fig.) *Hard work is the pathway to success.* | (fig.) *I will withdraw my objections, because I don't want to stand in your path.* (=block your possible success) **2** [(through)] an open space made to allow forward movement: *They used axes to clear a path through the forest.* **3** [(of)] a line along which something moves: *The path of an arrow is a curve.* —see also **beat a path** (BEAT¹), **lead someone up the garden path** (LEAD¹); see WAY (USAGE) —*~less adj*

Pa-than /pəˈtɑ:n/ *n, adj* (a member) of a group of people living esp. in Afghanistan and the western part of Pakistan

pa-thet-ic /pəˈθetɪk/ *adj* **1** causing a feeling of pity or sorrow; full of PATHOS: *the little dog's pathetic cries of pain* **2 derog** hopelessly unsuccessful; useless: *my pathetic attempts to learn French* | *He's a pathetic actor.* —*~ally* /kli/ *adv* : *pathetically inadequate*

pathetic fal-la-cy /ˈ· ˈ·/ *n* [the+S] *tech* (esp. in a work of literature) the describing of non-living things, such as rocks, the sea, the weather, etc., as if they were human, e.g. by calling them "cruel", "happy", etc.

path-find-er /ˈpɑ:θ,faɪndəː||ˈpæθ-/ *n* **1** a person who goes on ahead of a group and finds the best way through unknown land **2** a person who discovers new ways of doing things

path-o-log-i-cal /,pæθəˈlɒdʒɪkəl-||-ˈlɑ:z-/ *adj* **1 med** of PATHOLOGY **2 med** caused by disease, esp. of the mind **3 infml** unreasonable and unnatural; going on for a long time and out of control: *a pathological fear of the dark* | *a pathological liar* —*~ly* /kli/ *adv* : *pathologically jealous*

pa-thol-o-gist /pəˈθɒlədʒɪst||-ˈθɑ:z-/ *n med* a person, esp. a doctor, who is a specialist in pathology

pa-thol-o-gy /pəˈθɒlədʒi||-ˈθɑ:z-/ *n* [U] *med* the study of the causes and effects of illnesses

pa-thos /ˈpeɪθɒs||-θɑ:s/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* the quality in a situation, a person, or in something said or written that causes a feeling of pity and sorrow

path-way /ˈpɑ:weɪ||ˈpæθ-/ *n* a PATH (1)

pa-tience /ˈpeɪʃəns/ *n* [U] **1 a** the ability to wait calmly for a long time and not be made angry by delay: *You need patience if you want to get served in this shop.* **b** the ability to accept pain, trouble, or anything that causes annoyance, without complaining or losing one's self-control: *The teacher had no patience with the less intelligent pupils.* | *The continual noise from the road repairs is beginning to try my patience.* (=make me lose my patience) **2** (the power of showing) care and close attention to work that is difficult or tiring: *I wouldn't have the patience to sit mending watches all day.* **3** || also **solitaire AmE**—a card game for one player

pa-tient¹ /ˈpeɪʃənt/ *adj* [(with)] having or showing patience —opposite **impatient** —*~ly adv*

patient² *n* a person receiving medical treatment from a doctor and/or in a hospital —see CUSTOMER (USAGE)

Patient's Char-ter /,· ˈ·/ [the] a British government-written statement of the rights of people who use the National Health Service. Most parts of it became effective in 1992

pat-i-na /ˈpætɪnə/ *n* [S;U] **1 a** usu. green surface covering formed naturally on copper or BRONZE **2 a** pleasingly smooth shiny surface that gradually develops on wood, walls, etc.: (fig.) *the patina of wealth*

pat-i-o /ˈpætɪəʊ/ *n* -**os** an open space with a stone floor next to a house, used for sitting on or eating on in fine weather —compare TERRACE, VERANDA

patio doors /ˈ· ˈ·/ *n* [P] sliding doors which are usu. made of glass and open from a living room onto a patio

pa-tis-se-rie /pəˈtɪsəri/ *n* [C;U] (a shop that sells) French-style cakes, etc.

pa-tois /ˈpætwa:z/ *n* -**tois** /twa:z/ [C;U] a form of spoken language used by the people of a small area, which is

different from the national language, esp. if felt to be non-standard

Pa-ton /'peɪtn/, **Al-an** /'ælən/ (1903–88) a South African writer and politician best known for the NOVEL *Cry, the Beloved Country*

pa-tri-al /'peɪtriəl, 'pæ-/ *n* esp. BrE someone who for special reasons, esp. because one of their parents or their grandfather or grandmother was born in the United Kingdom, has a legal right to settle in the United Kingdom

pa-tri-arch /'peɪtriɑ:k||-ɑ:rk/ *n* 1 an old and much-respected man, esp. one who is the head of a family —compare MATRIARCH 2 a a BISHOP in the early Christian church b (*usu. cap.*) a chief bishop of the Eastern churches: *the Patriarch of Jerusalem*

pa-tri-arch-al /,peɪtri'ɑ:kəl-||-'ɑ:r-/ *adj* 1 ruled or controlled only by men: *a patriarchal society* 2 of or like a patriarch —compare MATRIARCHAL

pa-tri-arch-y /'peɪtriɑ:k||-ɑ:r-/ *n* [C;U] 1 (an example of) a social system in which the oldest man is head of the family, and passes power and possessions on to his sons 2 (an example of) a social system in which men hold all the power and use it only for their own advantage —compare MATRIARCHY

pa-tri-cian /'pə'trɪʃən/ *n* 1 a member of the governing classes in ancient Rome 2 *sometimes derog or apprec* a nobleman; ARISTOCRAT —compare PLEBEIAN

patrician² *adj* 1 belonging to the governing classes in ancient Rome 2 *sometimes derog* of or like a PATRICIAN¹ (2): *patrician aloofness*

pat-ri-cide /'pætrɪsaɪd/ *n* 1 [U] *fml* the murder of one's father 2 [C] *tech* a person guilty of this crime —compare MATRICIDE, PARRICIDE

Patrick, Saint see SAINT PATRICK

pat-ri-mo-ny /'pætrɪməni||-məuni/ *n* [S;U] *fml* property inherited (INHERIT) from one's father, grandfather, etc. —compare MATRIMONY —**nial** /,pætrɪ'məuniəl-/ *adj*

pat-ri-ot /'pætriət, -triət, 'peɪ-||'peɪtriət, -triɑ:t/ *n* *usu. apprec* someone who loves and is willing to defend their country

Patriot *n* a MISSILE system used against Iraqi missiles in the Gulf War: *Patriot missiles*

pat-ri-ot-ic /,pætri'ɒtɪk-, 'peɪ-||,peɪtri'ɑ:tɪk-/ *adj* *usu. apprec* having or expressing the qualities of a patriot: *He's very patriotic.* | *patriotic songs* —**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pat-ri-ot-is-m /'pætriətɪzəm, 'peɪ-||'peɪ-/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* love for and loyalty to one's country

pa-trol¹ /pə'trəʊl/ *n* 1 [U] the act of patrolling or a period of patrolling: *Warships were on patrol in the North Atlantic.* | *During the night, security guards make regular patrols of the factory premises.* 2 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a small group, esp. of soldiers, aircraft, warships, etc., sent out to search for the enemy or to protect a place from the enemy: *The patrol has/have reported that all is quiet.* 3 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a small group of SCOUTS¹ (1) or GUIDES¹ (5) within the TROOP¹ (3) 4 || AmE also **safety patrol**— a child given responsibility for the safety of other children on the school bus and on the walk to and from school. Safety patrols *usu.* wear bright orange belts. 5 AmE (in some states of the US) a police force: *the Illinois State Patrol*

patrol² *v* -ll- [I+*adv./prep.*;T] to go at regular times round (an area, building, etc.) to see that there is no trouble, that no one is trying to get in or out illegally, etc.: *Guards patrolled the prison's perimeter fence.* | *The grounds of the presidential palace are patrolled by soldiers with guard dogs.* | (fig.) *Gangs of youths patrol (=walk threateningly along) the streets on Saturday nights.*

patrol car /'pə'trəʊl-/ *n* a car used by the police for patrolling roads

pa-trol-man /pə'trəʊlmən/ *n* -men /mən/ 1 esp. AmE a policeman who regularly patrols a particular area 2 BrE a person working for a car-owners' association who drives along roads to give help to motorists who need it: *an AA patrolman*

patrol wagon /'pə'trəʊl-/ also **paddy wagon** *infml*— *n* AmE a police vehicle used to carry prisoners, e.g. to and from court; BLACK MARIA

pa-tron /'peɪtrən/ **pat-ron-ess** /-nɪs/ *fem.*— *n* 1 [(of)] a person or group that supports and gives money to an

organization or activity that is regarded as valuable and deserving support: *a patron of the arts* 2 *fml or polite* a person who uses a particular shop, hotel, etc., esp. regularly: *a special offer for our regular patrons* —compare CUSTOMER (1)

pat-ron-age /'pætrənɪdʒ/ *n* [U] 1 the support given by a PATRON (1) 2 *fml* the trade and support received from a PATRON (2) 3 *sometimes derog* the right to appoint people to important positions, esp. without regard to their ability

pat-ron-ize also **-ise** BrE /'pætrənaɪz||'peɪ-, 'pæ-/ *v* [T] 1 *derog* to behave towards (someone) as if one were better or more important than them: *Don't patronize me; I know just as much about it as you do.* | *a patronizing remark/smile* 2 *fml* to use or visit (a shop, theatre, etc.): *I won't patronize this shop any more; the assistants are so rude.*

patron saint /,pə'trən saɪnt/ *n* [(of)] a Christian SAINT who is regarded as giving special protection to a particular place, activity, etc.: *Saint Christopher is the patron saint of travellers.*

pat-rò-nym-ic /,pætrə'nɪmɪk/ *n, adj* *tech* (a name) formed from the name of one's father, grandfather, etc.

pat-sy /'pætsi/ *n* esp. AmE *infml derog* a person who is tricked or deceived, esp. into taking all the blame or punishment for something

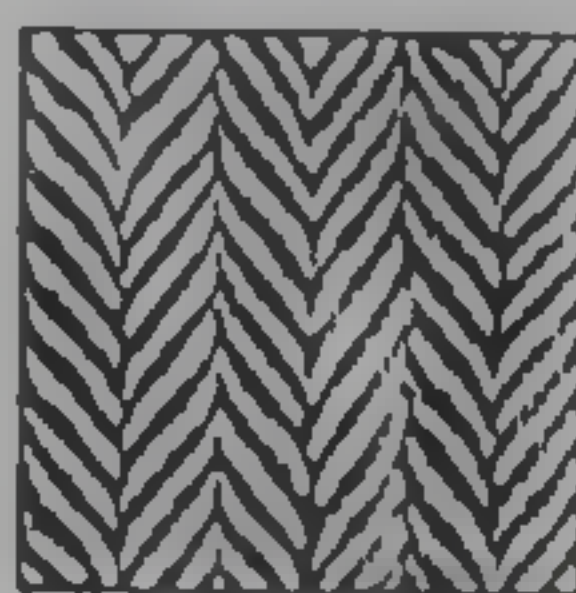
pat-ten /'pætn/ *n* a CLOG (=a wooden shoe), with pieces of iron on the bottom worn, esp. formerly, when walking over wet or muddy ground

Patten, Chris /krɪs/ (1944–) a British Conservative politician who became Environment Secretary in 1989 and then Chairman of the Conservative Party. He lost his seat in Parliament in the 1992 general election and became GOVERNOR of Hong Kong later that year.

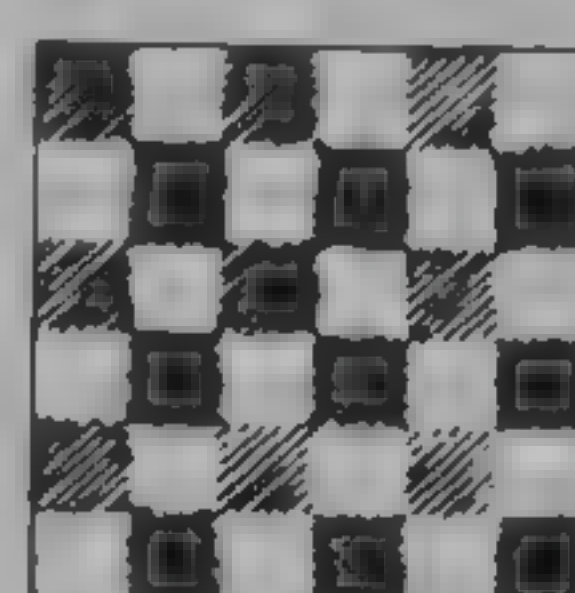
pat-ter¹ /'pætə/ *v* [I+*adv./prep.*] to make, or move while making, the soft sound of something hitting a surface lightly, quickly, and repeatedly: *The dog pattered down the stairs/across the hall.* | *The falling leaves pattered against the window panes.*

pätter² *n* 1 [S (of)] a sound of something pattering: *the pätter of the rain on the tent* | *They will soon be hearing the pätter of tiny feet.* (=they are going to have a baby) 2 [S;U] very fast continuous often amusing talk, esp. as used by someone trying to sell something, a magician while doing tricks, or someone telling jokes; one would not trust this talk: *She wasn't taken in by the salesman's patter.* 3 [U] the language, words, etc., used by a particular class of people, esp. criminals: *thieves' patter*

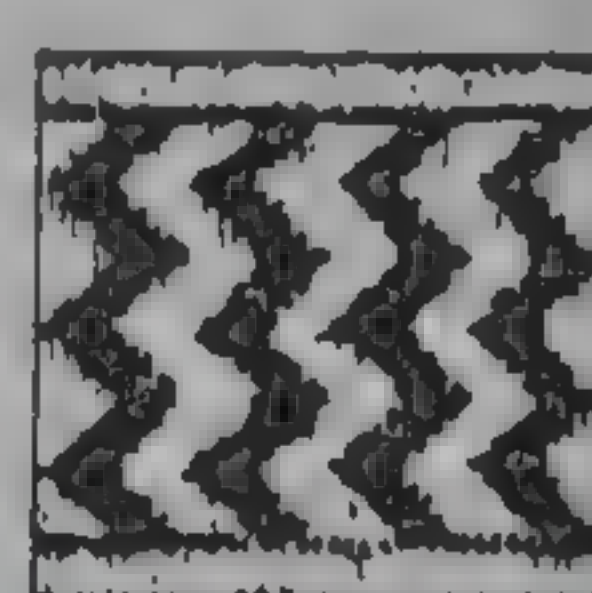
patterns



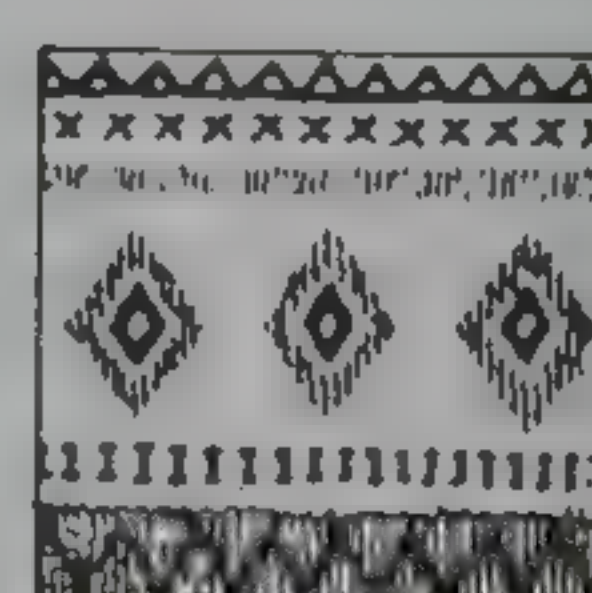
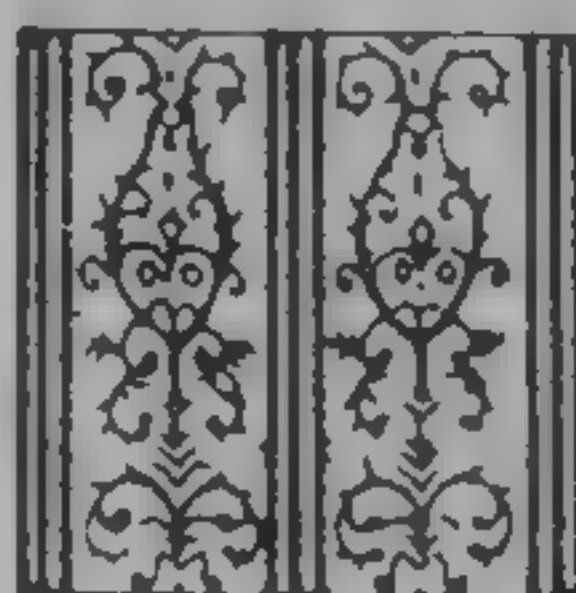
herringbone



checked



zigzag



pat-tern¹ /'pætən||'pætərn/ *n* 1 a a regularly repeated arrangement of lines, shapes, or colours on a surface, that has, or is intended to have, a decorative or pleasing effect: *The cloth has a pattern of red and white squares.* | *snowflakes forming a pattern on the windowpane* b any regularly repeated arrangement, e.g. of sounds or words —compare DESIGN 2 the way in which something happens or develops: *The illness is not following its usual pattern.* | *a strange pattern of events* | *behavioural patterns that are typical of this social group* 3 a small piece of

cloth, paper, etc., that shows what a large piece (of usual size) will look like; **SAMPLE 4** a shape used as a guide for making something, esp. a piece of paper used to show the shape of a part of a garment: *a dress pattern* **5** [*usu. sing.*] a person, thing, or form that is an example to copy: *The success of the course set a pattern for the training of new employees.* —compare **MODEL**¹ (4)

pattern² *v* [T] **1** [(with)] to make a decorative pattern on: *patterned curtain material* | *patterned with roses* **2** [+*obj+adv/prep*, esp. **after**, **on**, **upon**] *fml* to form the character, qualities, etc., of (esp. oneself) by copying: *He patterned himself upon a man he admired.*

Pat-ton /'pætn/, **George Smith** (1885–1945) an American army general. He was an important commander during the First World War and the Second World War and was sometimes called “Old Blood and Guts”.

patty /'pæti/ *n* **1** *BrE* a small **PIE** or **PASTY** **2** food cut into very small pieces, formed into small flat shapes, and cooked: *beef patties*

patty melt /'.. ,/ *n* *AmE* a flat round piece of finely cut **BEEF**, cooked with cheese on top and served on bread

pau-ci-ty /'pɔ:sɪti/ *n* [S (of)] *fml* less than is needed; a lack; *DEARTH*: *a paucity of good ideas*

Paul —see **SAINT PAUL**

Pau-ling /'pɔ:lɪŋ/ **Li-nus** /'laɪnəs/ (1901–) an American scientist noted for his work on how chemicals join together and for his opposition to the testing of **NUCLEAR** weapons. He won the Nobel prize for chemistry and the Nobel Peace Prize.

paunch /pɔ:ntʃ/ *n* *derog* or *humor* a fat stomach, esp. a man's: *He seems to be developing a paunch.* —~*y* *adj* —~*iness* *n* [U]

pau-per /'pɔ:pə/ *n* a very poor person, esp. one who in former times received official help

pause¹ /pɔ:z/ *n* **1** [(in)] a short but noticeable break in activity, speech, etc.: *a pause in the conversation* | *They worked for almost six hours without a pause.* **2** a mark () over a musical note, showing that the note is to be played or sung longer than usual **3** **give someone pause** to cause someone to stop and consider carefully what they are doing

pause² *v* [I] to make a pause; stop for a short time before continuing: *I had to pause for breath/to get my breath back.*

pa-vane /pə'væn, 'pævən||pə'va:n, pə'væn/ *n* (the music for) a formal **COURTLY** dance of the 16th and 17th centuries

Pav-a-rot-ti /,pævə'rɒti||-'rɑ:-/, **Lu-cia-no** /lu:'tʃɑ:nəʊ/ (1935–) an Italian **OPERA** singer, considered to be one of the world's leading **TENORS** (=men with high singing voices), who has also given many concerts —see *colour picture* on page 554

pave /peɪv/ *v* [T (with)] *usu. pass.* **1** to cover (a path, area, etc.) with a hard level surface, esp. of **PAVING STONES**: *a paved courtyard* | *country boys who thought the streets of London were paved with gold* (=that London was a place of wealth and success) **2** **pave the way for/to** to prepare for or make possible: *The agreement paves the way for a lasting peace.*

pave-ment /'peɪvmənt/ *n* **1** *BrE* a paved surface or path at the side of a street for people to walk on; **SIDEWALK** —see *picture* at **HOUSE** **2** *AmE* the hard surface of a street **3** a paved surface of any sort; **PAVING** (2)

pavement art-ist /'.. ,./ *BrE* || **sidewalk artist** *AmE* —*n* a person who draws pictures on a pavement with coloured chalk, hoping that people passing will give money

pavement caf-é /'.. ,.||'.. ,./ *BrE* || **sidewalk cafe** *AmE* —*n* a **CAFE** (=restaurant serving light meals and drinks) with tables outside

pa-vil-ion /pə'vɪljən/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* a building beside a sports field, esp. a cricket field, for the use of the players and those watching the game **2** a large structure, lightly built and intended to be used for only a short time, used for public amusements or **EXHIBITIONS**: *the British pavilion at the World Trade Fair*

pav-ing /'peɪvɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] material used to pave a surface **2** [U] a paved surface of any sort; **PAVEMENT** (3) **3** [C *usu. pl.*] a paving stone —see also **CRAZY PAVING**

pavement café



paving stone /'.. ,/ *n* a piece of flat stone, fitted close to other such stones to form a pavement

Pav-lov /'pævlov||-ləv/, **I-van Pet-ro-vich** /'aɪvən 'petrəvɪtʃ/ (1849–1936) a Russian scientist best known for his work with dogs which proved the existence of the **CONDITIONED REFLEX**. Whenever he was going to feed the dogs he rang a bell, and the dogs soon started to get excited and want food when they heard the bell. —**Pavlovian** /pæv'ləʊvɪən/ *adj*

pav-lo-va /pæv'ləʊvə||pɑ:v-/ *n* a light cake made of **MERIN-GUE**, cream, and fruit esp. popular in Australia. It is thought to have been invented to celebrate a visit to Australia or New Zealand by Anna Pavlova.

Pavlova, An-na /'ænə/ (1885–1931) a Russian **BALLET** dancer esp. remembered for her dancing of *The Dying Swan*. She is considered by many to have been the world's greatest ballet dancer.

paw¹ /pɔ:/ *n* **1** an animal's foot that has nails or **CLAWS**: *a lion's paw* —compare **HOOF** **2** *infml*, esp. *humor* a human hand: *Go and wash your dirty paws!*

paw² *v* [I (at); T] **1** (of an animal) to touch or rub (a surface), esp. repeatedly, with a paw or **HOOF**, showing anger, fear, impatience, etc.: *The dog was pawing (at) the door, trying to get out.* | *an angry bull pawing the ground* **2** *infml* (of a person) to feel or touch with the hands, esp. in a rough and sexually improper manner: *She wanted to watch the film, but he kept pawing her.*

paw-ky /'pɔ:ki/ *adj* *esp. BrE* amusing in an odd clever way, so that one cannot tell whether the thing said was meant to be funny or serious: *The Scots are famous for their pawky humour.* —**kily** *adv* —**kiness** *n* [U]

pawn¹ /pɔ:n/ *v* [T] to leave (something of value) with a pawnbroker as a promise that one will repay the money he has lent one: *He had to pawn his watch to pay for a meal.*

pawn² *n* [U] the state of having been pawned: *My watch is in pawn.*

pawn³ *n* **1** any of the eight smallest and least valuable playing pieces in the game of **CHES**S —see *picture* at **CHES**S **2** [(in)] an unimportant person used by someone else for their own advantage: *I was merely a pawn in his cunning stratagem.*

pawn-bro-ker /'pɔ:n,broʊkə/ *n* a person to whom people bring valuable articles so that he will lend them money, and who has the right to sell the articles if the money is not repaid within a certain time. Pawnbrokers usu. lend less money than the value of the article and sell it at a profit if the owner cannot **REDEEM** it (=get it back by paying the money lent, with some extra money charged by the pawnbroker).

Paw-nee /pɔ:'ni:/ *n* [C; the+P] (a member of) a Native American people who live on the **PLAINS** of the US, mainly now in Oklahoma —see **NATIVE AMERICAN** (**CUL-TURAL NOTE**)

pawn-shop /'pɔ:nʃɒp||-ʃɑ:p/ *n* a pawnbroker's place of business. The sign for a pawnshop is three golden balls. In former times every town had a pawnshop, but they are now much less common. The pawnshop was the only place where poor people could borrow money, and poor families would sometimes have something such as a piece of furniture or clothing that was regularly pawned when money was needed.

paw-paw /'pɔ:pɔ:/ *n* *esp. BrE and CarE* for **PAPAYA**

Pax A-mer-i-ca-na /,pæks əmerɪ'kɑ:nə/ the peace supposed

to be established in the world by the presence of the power of the United States

Pax Bri-tan-ni-ca /ˌpæks brɪˈtænɪkə/ [(the)] the peace supposed to be established by British rule in the days of the British Empire

PAXO /ˈpæksəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* (in Britain) a type of dried STUFFING, cooked and eaten esp. with turkey at Christmas

pay¹ /peɪ/ *v* **paid** /peɪd/ **1** [I;T (for, to)] to give (money) to (someone) in exchange for goods that one has bought, services that have been provided, or work that has been done: *She tried to leave the shop without paying (for the dress).* | *How soon can you pay me (for the work)?* | *The bank pays interest of 9% on savings.* | *We get paid by the hour/on Friday.* | *How much did you pay for that car?* | *“Are you paying cash?” “No, I’ll pay by cheque.”* | *I paid £200 for the painting.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *I paid him £200 (for this painting).* | *I paid it to him in instalments.* | *I’ll pay you (£3) to clean my car.* | (fig.) *This washing machine should pay for itself within a year.* (=will make it possible to save the same amount of money as was needed to buy it) —see also **PAY for** **2** [T] to give (money that is owed); settle (a bill, debt, etc.): *Have you paid the electricity bill yet?* | *to pay one’s taxes/train fare* **3** [T (IN, into)] to put (money, a cheque, etc.) into a bank, an account, etc., to be kept safe: *Have you paid the cheque in yet/paid it into your account yet?* **4** [I;T] to be profitable (to); produce advantage or gain that is worth the trouble or cost (to): *We must make the farm pay, or we’ll have to sell it.* | *Crime doesn’t pay.* | *It won’t pay (you) to argue with her.* **5** [I+adv] (of work, something done, etc.) to bring or give one money or something of value in return: *This job pays well.* | *a poorly-paid job* **6** [T (to)] to give, offer, or make: *I shall pay a call on you tomorrow.* | *Pay attention to what I’m saying!* | *He certainly knows how to pay a compliment.* | *He paid his respects to the bishop.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *I’ll pay you a visit next week.* **7** **pay one’s way** to pay money for things as one buys them so as not to get into debt **8** **he who pays the piper calls the tune** saying the person who is paying for something can choose what it will be like **9** **pay through the nose (for)** *infml* to pay far too much (for) — ~er *n*

pay sbdy./sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T (for)] **1** to return (what is owing) to (someone); *REPAY: I’ll pay you back tomorrow.* | *They can’t pay back the loan.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Have I paid you back the £10 I borrowed/paid the £10 back to you?* **2** also **pay out** *BrE old-fash* — to return bad treatment, rudeness, etc., to (someone who has done something wrong to oneself): *I’ll pay him back for what he did to me!*

pay for sthg. *phr v* [T] to receive punishment or suffering for: *These people must be made to pay for their crimes.* | *He paid dearly for his unfaithfulness to her.* | (fig.) *We are paying for the fine summer with a wet winter.* [+v-ing] *I’ll make him pay for ruining my chances.*

pay (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **off** *phr v* **1** [T] to pay the whole of (a debt) **2** [T] to pay and dismiss from a job: *His work was most unsatisfactory, so we paid him off at the end of the week.* **3** [T] to pay (someone) to keep silent about a wrong or illegal act **4** [I] to be successful: *Did your plan pay off?* —see also **PAYOFF**

pay (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* **1** [I;T (=pay sthg. ↔ out)] to make a usu. large payment in return for (goods or services): *I paid out a lot of money for that car.* | *It’s always me who has to pay out.* **2** [T] (**pay** sthg. ↔ **out**) to allow (esp. a rope) to be pulled out gradually to a greater length **3** [T] (**pay** sbdy. ↔ **out**) *BrE old-fash* for **PAY back** (2) —see also **PAYOUT**

pay sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T (to)] to make formal payment of (money)

pay up *phr v* [I] to pay money that is owed, esp. unwillingly or late —compare **PAID-UP**

pay² *n* [U] **1** money received in exchange for work: *He gets his pay each Thursday.* | *They are negotiating for a pay increase/rise.* | *It’s interesting work but the pay isn’t very good.* | *holiday/sick pay* (=money given by an employer when one is on holiday or ill) **2** **in the pay of** *esp. derog* employed by or working for: *an informer who is in the pay of the police*

▷ **USAGE** **Pay** is a general word for the money you receive for work, but **income** means any money you receive regularly, whether from work or from rents, etc.: *Have you any income apart from your pay?* A

salary is paid monthly into the bank (especially to professional people) and **wages** are paid weekly in cash (especially to people who work with their hands). Money paid for certain professional services (e.g. to a lawyer) is a **fee**.<

pay-a-ble /ˈpeɪəbəl/ *adj* [F] **1** (of a bill, debt, etc.) that must or may be paid: *This bill is payable now.* | *payable in advance* —compare **RECEIVABLE** (2) **2** [+to] (of a cheque) having written on it the name of a particular person to whom the stated amount of money will be paid

pay-bed /ˈpeɪbed/ *n* *BrE* a hospital bed in a publicly-owned hospital used by a person who does not pay for their treatment but who pays to have better conditions, e.g. a private room

pay-cheque *BrE* || **paycheck** *AmE* /ˈpeɪ-tʃek/ *n* **1** [C] a cheque for a person’s wages **2** [U] *esp. AmE* the amount of wages a person earns —compare **PAY PACKET**

pay-day /ˈpeɪdeɪ/ *n* [U] the day on which wages are paid

pay dirt /ˈpeɪ ɹɪt/ *n* [U] *AmE* **1** earth found to contain valuable minerals, such as gold **2** a valuable or useful discovery

PAYE /ˌpiː eɪ waɪ ˈiː/ *n* [U] pay as you earn; a system by which income tax and National Insurance Contributions are taken away from wages before the wages are paid

pay-ee /ˈpeɪˈiː/ *n* *tech* a person to whom money, esp. a cheque, is or should be paid

pay en-ve-lope /ˈpeɪ ɪnˌvəloʊp/ *n* *AmE* for **PAY PACKET** (1)

paying guest /ˌpeɪɪŋ ˈɡʌst/ *n* a person who lives in a private house and pays rent to the owner; a **LODGER**

paying-in book /ˌpeɪɪŋ ɪnˌbʊk/ *BrE* || **deposit book** *AmE* — *n* a book of forms used when paying money into one’s account at a bank, or when making regular payments through the bank to another organization

pay-load /ˈpeɪləʊd/ *n* **1** (the weight of) the part of a load of a load-carrying vehicle for which payment is received **2** the amount of explosive in the head of a **MISSILE** **3** instruments and equipment carried in a spacecraft

pay-mas-ter /ˈpeɪˌmɑːstər/ || -ˌmæ-/ *n* **1** an official in a factory, the armed forces, etc., who pays wages to people **2** [often pl.] *derog* a person who pays someone to do usu. illegal work, and who therefore has control over the other person’s actions: *He was forced by his paymasters in the secret service to keep quiet about these murders.*

Paymaster Gen-er-al /ˌpeɪmɑːstər ˈdʒenərəl/ [(the)] the head of a British government department, the Paymaster General’s Office, which provides bank services for other government departments

pay-ment /ˈpeɪmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of paying (**PAY**¹ (1,2,3)): *Here is a cheque in payment of (=to pay) my account.* | *We expect prompt payment.* | *The room can be reserved on payment of a small deposit.* | (fig.) *All the payment I got for my trouble was insults.* —see also **NONPAYMENT** **2** [C] an amount of money that has been or must be paid: *monthly mortgage payments of £300* —see also **BALANCE OF PAYMENTS**, **DOWN PAYMENT**

Payne /peɪn/, **Cyn-thi-a** /ˈsɪnθiə/ (1933–) a British woman who was tried, but found not guilty in 1987, for running a house of **PROSTITUTES** (=women who have sex for money). She was said to have had wild parties in her London home in which police took part, and the newspapers called her “Madame Cyn.”

pay-off /ˈpeɪɒf/ || -ɔːf/ *n* [(the) S] *infml* **1** the act or time of paying wages, debts, money won at cards, etc.: *He got a big payoff for agreeing to lose the game deliberately.* **2** the end of a number of connected acts, esp. the end of a story someone has been telling, when everything is explained —see also **PAY off**

pay-o-la /ˈpeɪˈəʊlə/ *n* [S;U] *infml, esp. AmE* (the practice of making) a secret or not direct payment in return for a business favour: *That disc jockey expects some payola for agreeing to plug a record on his radio show.*

pay-out /ˈpeɪ-aʊt/ *n* *infml* (an act of making) a usu. large payment of money: *a big payout on this month’s lottery.* —see also **PAY out**

pay pack-et /ˈpeɪ ˌpæk-ət/ *n* *BrE* **1** || **pay envelope** *AmE* — an envelope containing a person’s pay. People who are given their pay in this way are *usu.* **BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS** —see **PAY**² (**USAGE**) **2** || **paycheque** *AmE* — the amount of wages a person earns: *a large pay packet*

pay phone /'pɪ·-/ *n* a public telephone inside a public building which one can use only after putting in a coin

pay rise /'pɪ·-/ *BrE* || **pay raise** *AmE*— *n* an increase in the amount one is paid for one's job

pay-roll /'peɪrɔːl/ *n* 1 [C] a list of workers employed by a company and the amount of wages each person is to be paid: *He's no longer on their payroll.* (=no longer works for them) 2 [S] the total amount of wages paid to all the workers in a particular company

pay set-tle-ment /'pɪ·.../ *n* an agreement on pay reached between unions and managers usu. after long argument

pay-slip /'peɪslɪp/ *n* a piece of paper showing the amount paid to an employed person and the amount remaining after tax, etc.

Pay-ton /'peɪtn/, **Wal-ter** /'wɔːltər/ (1954–) an American FOOTBALL (2) player who set records for running with the ball

PBS /'pɪz bɪz 'es/ *n* Public Broadcasting System; an American television company which is not run to make money and which broadcasts no advertising. It aims to put on good quality television programmes and is supported with money from people who watch these programmes, from the government, and from large companies. Two programmes for which PBS is known are *Sesame Street* and *Masterpiece Theatre*.

PC /'pɪz 'sɪz/ *abbrev. for:* PERSONAL COMPUTER

P.C. /'pɪz 'sɪz·/ *n BrE* police constable; a policeman having the lowest rank: *P.C. Johnson* | *Two P.C.'s were attacked.* —see also W.P.C.

PCAS /'pɪkæz/ Polytechnics Central Admissions System; a British official organization which deals with people's requests to study at POLYTECHNICS

PCB /'pɪz sɪz 'bɪz/ *n* POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL; one of several chemical compounds used in industry which are poisonous in the environment

PCC /'pɪz sɪz 'sɪz/ *abbrev. for:* PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

pcm *abbrev* per calendar month; used when stating e.g. the amount of rent payable on a house, etc.

PCP /'pɪz sɪz 'pɪz/ *n* [U] *AmE* phencyclidine hydrochloride; an ANAESTHETIC drug for animals which some people take illegally because it produces HALLUCINATIONS (=experiences of seeing things which are not really there)

pd *written abbrev. for:* PAID

Pde *written abbrev. for:* PARADE¹ (4)

PDQ /'pɪz dɪz 'kjuː/ *adv sl* pretty damn (or darn) quick; immediately: *If he doesn't get back here pdq there's going to be trouble.*

PDSA /'pɪz dɪz es 'eɪ/ [*the*] the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals; a British organization (CHARITY) which provides free treatment for sick animals, esp. pets, whose owners cannot afford to pay to take the animal to a VET

PDT /'pɪz dɪz 'tɪz/ *abbrev. for:* PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

PE /'pɪz 'ɪz/ *n* [U] physical education; PT

pea /'piːz/ *n* 1 a large round green seed which is cooked and eaten as a vegetable: *to shell peas* —see picture at VEGETABLE 2 a climbing plant which produces long green PODS containing these seeds 3 *as like as two peas (in a pod)* *infml* (esp. of people) exactly the same in appearance —see also SWEET PEA

peace /'piːs/ *n* 1 [S;U] a condition or period in which there is no war between two or more nations: *Both warring nations longed for peace.* | *a peace treaty* (=to end a war) | *a dangerous situation that threatens world peace* | *The peace movement campaigns for the banning of nuclear weapons.* 2 [*the*+S] a state of freedom from disorder within a country, with the citizens living according to the law: *The job of the police is to keep the peace.* | *The youths were arrested for a breach of the peace.* (=something, e.g. fighting, that breaks the public peace) 3 [U] a freedom from anxiety or troubling thoughts: *Knowing that she had arrived safely restored my peace of mind.* **b** freedom from unwanted noise or activity; calmness: *Please let me get on with my work in peace.* | *All I want is a bit of peace and quiet.* 4 *at peace:* a in a state of quiet or calm **b euph** dead 5 *hold one's peace* to remain silent even though one has something to say: *In spite of his provocative remarks, I held my peace.* 6 *make one's peace with* to settle one's disagreements

with 7 *peace in our time* *quote* a phrase used by the British politician Neville Chamberlain after his meeting with Adolf Hitler in Munich in 1938, when he thought he had prevented war from breaking out —see also MUNICH AGREEMENT 8 *peace with honour* *quote* a phrase made popular by the 19th-century British politician Disraeli 9 *rest in peace* a phrase used to bless the dead, said during a funeral service or written on a GRAVESTONE

peace-a-ble /'piːsəbəl/ *adj* 1 disliking argument or quarrelling 2 calm; free from disorder or fighting: *a peaceable agreement* —**bly** *adv:* *The two tribes live peaceably together.*

peace camp /'pɪ·-/ *n* a camp set up outside a military base, esp. one having NUCLEAR weapons, by people protesting against military activities

Peace Corps /'pɪ·-/ [*the*] an American government organization which sends VOLUNTEERS (=people who give their services without payment), esp. young people, with technical knowledge to help DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (=poor countries which are trying to build up their industry)

peace div-i-dend /'pɪ·.../ *n* the money saved on weapons and available for other purposes when a government reduces its military strength

peace-ful /'piːsfəl/ *adj* 1 quiet and calm; untroubled: *a peaceful afternoon by the river* 2 **a** without war: *The best we can hope for is a state of peaceful coexistence between East and West.* **b** without disorder: *a peaceful demonstration* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n* [U]

peace-keep-ing /'piːskiːpɪŋ/ *n* the preserving of peace esp. between states or peoples who were recently at war or are about to go to war: *a peacekeeping force|attempt*

peace-mak-er /'piːsmekər/ *n Bibl* a person who tries to achieve peace between others who are fighting. In the Bible, it says "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

peace march /'pɪ·-/ *n* a march or other DEMONSTRATION by people who are protesting against violence or military activities: *The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament are organizing a peace march.* | *Protestants and Catholics united in a peace march and prayed for an end to violence in Northern Ireland.*

peace of-fer-ing /'pɪ·.../ *n infml* something offered to show that one wants to be friendly, esp. with someone whom one has annoyed

peace pipe /'pɪ·-/ also **pipe of peace**— *n* a ceremonial tobacco pipe smoked by Native Americans as a sign of peace —see colour picture on page 358

peace-time /'piːstaɪm/ *n* [U] a time when a nation is not at war: *Their armed forces have returned to peacetime levels.* —opposite **wartime**

peace wom-en /'pɪ·.../ *n pl* a name given to the women at the peace camp at GREENHAM COMMON

peach /'piːtʃ/ *n* 1 [C] (a tree that produces) a round fruit with soft yellowish-red skin, sweet juicy flesh, and a large rough seed in its centre —see picture at FRUIT 2 [U] a light-yellowish pink colour 3 [S] *infml* a person or thing that is greatly admired: *a peach of a hat* (=a very fine or attractive one)

Peach Mel-ba /'piːtʃ 'melbə/ *n* [C;U] half a peach served with ice cream and RASPBERRY juice

pea-cock /'piːkɒk||-kɔːk/ *n* 1 a large bird (a male peafowl), which has long tail feathers that can be spread out showing beautiful colours and patterns 2 also **peacock but-ter-fly** /'piː- 'bʌtər-/— a BUTTERFLY with large wings which have patterns on them like those on the tail of a peacock 3 *not tech* a peahen

Peacock, Thomas Love (1785–1866) an English SATIRICAL writer and poet whose works include *Headlong Hall* and *Nightmare Abbey*

peacock blue /'piː- 'bluː/ *adj* having a bright shiny blue colour

pea-fowl /'piːfaʊl/ *n* peafowl or peafowls a peacock or peahen

pea green /'piː- 'grɪn/ *adj* having a light bright green colour like that of PEAS

pea-hen /'piːhen/ *n* a large brownish bird, the female peafowl

peak¹ /'piːk/ *n* 1 **a** a sharply pointed mountain top: *The*

- (*mountain*) **peaks** are covered with snow all the year. **b** a whole mountain with a pointed top: *Here the high peaks begin to rise from the plain.* —compare **SUMMIT** and see picture at **MOUNTAIN** **2** a part that curves to a point above a surface: *The wind blew the waves into great peaks.* **3** the highest point, level, etc., esp. of a varying amount, rate, etc.: *Sales have reached a new peak.* | *Demand for coal is at its peak in January and February.* —compare **OFF-PEAK** **4** the flat curved part of a cap which sticks out in front above the eyes —see picture at **HAT**
- peak**² *v* [I] to reach a **PEAK**¹ (3): *Sales have now peaked, and we expect them to decrease soon.*
- peak**³ *adj* [A] at the point of greatest activity, value, power, etc.: *The factory is running at peak productivity.* | *Athletes have to train continuously to stay in peak condition.*
- Peak Dis-tract** /'iː ˌdɪstrɪkt/ [*the*] a hilly area and national park, mostly in N Derbyshire, N Central England. It is popular for climbing, walking, and **POT HOLING**.
- Peake** /pi:k/, **Mer-vyn** /'mɜːvɪn/ || 'mɜːr-/ (1911–68) an English writer and **ILLUSTRATOR** born in China. His **NOVELS** include the strange fantasies (**FANTASY**) *Titus Groan*, *Gormenghast*, and *Titus Alone*.
- peaked** /pi:k/ *adj* having a **PEAK**¹ (4): *a peaked cap* —see picture at **HAT**
- peak time** /'iː ˌtaɪm/ *n* **BrE** **1** a time when a stated activity, value, power, etc. is at its greatest level: *Peak times for electricity consumption are in the early evening.* | *We found that the peak time at this junction is 5.20 p.m.* **2** [U] **BrE**, also **peak viewing hours** **BrE** || **prime time** **AmE**— the time when the number of people watching television is at its greatest. Television companies charge more during this time to put their advertisements on television. In Britain, peak time is between 7.30 and 10.30 at night, and in the US it is between 8 and 11 at night.
- pea-ky** /'pi:kɪ/ *adj* *infml*, esp. **BrE** rather pale or ill: *I'm feeling a bit peaky this morning.* | *She's been looking rather peaky lately.*
- peal**¹ /pi:l/ *n* **1** [(of)] a loud long sound or number of sounds one after the other: *a peal of thunder* | *peals of laughter* **2** the sound of the loud ringing of bells **3** *tech* a musical pattern made by the ringing of a number of bells one after another **b** a set of bells on which these patterns can be played
- peal**² *v* [I (OUT);T] to (cause to) ring out or sound loudly: *The bells pealed out.*
- pea-nut** /'pi:nʌt/ also **groundnut** **BrE** *tech*, **monkey-nut** *old-fash*— *n* a nut which grows in a shell under the ground, and can be eaten —see also **PEANUTS**, and see picture at **NUT**
- peanut but-ter** /'iː ˌbʊtə/ || 'iː ˌbʊtə/ *n* [U] a soft substance made of crushed peanuts, usu. eaten on bread
- peanut gal-le-ry** /'iː ˌgæləri/ *n* **AmE** *humor* the rows of seats at the back of a theatre or cinema, usu. on a raised platform, where the seats are cheap
- pea-nuts** /'pi:nʌts/ *n* [U] *infml* a sum of money so small that it is not worth considering: *He pays his workers peanuts.*
- Peanuts** a **COMIC STRIP** by the American **CARTOONIST** (=person who makes humorous drawings) Charles Schultz featuring a group of children. The main character is Charlie Brown, and other characters include Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Pigpen, Sally, Peppermint Patty, and Schroeder.
- pear** /peə/ *n* (a tree that produces) a sweet juicy fruit, which has a round base and usu. becomes narrower towards the stem —see picture at **FRUIT**
- pearl** /pɜːl/ || pɜːr/ *n* **1** [C] a hard round small silvery-white mass formed inside the shell of **OYSTERS** and similar creatures, very valuable as a jewel: *a pearl necklace* | *a string of pearls* | (*fig.*) *pearls of wisdom* **2** [U] the colour of this; silvery-white **3** [U] **MOTHER-OF-PEARL**: *a knife with a pearl handle* **4** **do not cast/throw pearls before swine** (=pigs) (a slightly changed saying from the Bible) do not give something valuable to someone who cannot understand its value: *The children were too young to understand the Shakespeare read to them; it was like casting pearls before swine.* | *Trying to explain to the fur traders why these animals should be preserved was like casting pearls before swine.*
- pearl bar-ley** /'iː ˌbɑːli/ *n* [U] a variety of **BARLEY** with small round grains
- pearl div-er** /'iː ˌdɪvə/ *n* a person who swims under water in the sea, looking for shells containing pearls
- Pearl Har-bor** /'iː ˌhɑːbər/ an American naval base in Hawaii which was the scene of a surprise Japanese air attack in 1941 which brought the US into the Second World War
- pearl-y** /'pɜːli/ || 'pɜːrli/ *adj* like or decorated with pearls: *pearly teeth* | *a pale pearly grey* —**iness** *n* [U]
- pearly gates** /'iː ˌɡeɪts/ *n* [*the*+P] *often humor* the gates of heaven
- pearly king** /'iː ˌkɪŋ/ || **pearly queen** *fem*— *n* a person chosen from certain London families who has the right, on certain special occasions, to wear clothes richly decorated with patterns of **pearl buttons** (buttons made of, or looking like **MOTHER-OF-PEARL**)
- pear-main** /'peəmeɪn/ || 'peər-/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a type of apple
- Pears** /peəz/ || 'peəz/ *n* *tdmk* a type of soap made by A & F Pears Ltd; Pears is generally considered to be good for the skin
- **CULTURAL NOTE** Pears is known in the UK for holding a competition every year to find the little girl with the prettiest face and the softest skin ◀
- Pears** /piəz/ || 'piəz/, **Sir Peter** (1910–86) an English singer; a **TENOR** who started the **ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL** with Benjamin Britten in 1948
- Pears Cy-clo-pae-di-a** /'peəz saɪklə'piːdiə/ || 'peəz-/ a British book produced every year, containing information on politics, music, science, famous people, etc. in Britain and the US
- pear-shaped** /'iː ˌʃeɪpɪd/ *adj* shaped like a pear; wider at the bottom and narrower at the top. It is often said that this is the typical shape of a British woman.
- peas-ant** /'pezənt/ *n* **1** (now used esp. in connection with developing countries or former times) a person who works on the land, esp. one who owns and lives on a small piece of land **2** *infml derog* a person without education or good manners: *Don't be such a peasant!*
- peas-ant-ry** /'pezəntri/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] all the **PEASANTS** (1) of a particular country
- Peasants' Re-volt** /'iː ˌpiːzənts ˌriːvɒlt/ [*the*] a mostly unsuccessful movement of English poor people (**PEASANTS**) in 1381 against unfair social and economic conditions
- pease pud-ding** /'piːz ˌpʊdɪŋ/ *n* [U] **BrE** a dish made of dried **PEAS**, boiled to a soft yellow mass
- pea-shoot-er** /'piːz ˌʃuːtə/ *n* a small tube used by children for blowing small objects, esp. dried **PEAS**, at people or things
- pea soup-er** /'piːz ˌsuːpə/ *n* *infml old-fash* a thick heavy yellow **FOG**, often thought to be typical of London in the 19th and early 20th century
- peat** /pi:t/ **BrE** || *usu.* **peat moss** /'iː ˌmɔːs/ **AmE**— *n* **1** [U] partly decayed vegetable matter which takes the place of ordinary soil in certain areas (**peat bogs**), and is used for burning instead of coal or for making plants grow well **2** [C] a piece of this cut out to be used for making fires —**peaty** *adj*
- Peat Mar-wick Mc-Lin-tock** /'piːt ˌmɑːwɪk mək'lɪntɒk/ || -ˌmɑːr-/ a very large international **ACCOUNTANCY** firm
- peb-ble** /'pebəl/ *n* **1** a small roundish smooth stone found esp. on the seashore or on a riverbed **2** **not the only pebble on the beach** not the only person who has to be considered; only one out of many others who deserve attention —**bly** *adj*: *a pebbly beach*
- peb-ble-dash** /'pebəldeɪʃ/ *n* [U] **BrE** **CEMENT** with lots of small pebbles set in it, used for covering the outside walls of a house
- pe-can** /pɪ'kæn, 'pɪkən/ || pɪ'kæn, pɪ'kæn/ *n* a nut with a long thin reddish shell. **Pecan pie** is a favourite sweet dish in the US.
- pec-ca-dil-lo** /'pekə'dɪləʊ/ *n* -loes or -los a small unimportant fault or bad action: *His wife seems willing to overlook his little peccadilloes with other women.*
- pec-ca-ry** /'pekəri/ *n* **peccaries** or **peccary** a wild hairy piglike animal found esp. in Central and South America
- peck**¹ /pek/ *v* **1** [I (at);T] (of a bird) to strike with the beak: *Don't get too near that bird; it might peck you.* | *The hens were pecking at the corn.* (=picking it up with their beaks) | *It had pecked a hole in the bottom of its cage.* (=made a hole by pecking) | (*fig.*) *She seemed upset, and*

just pecked at her food. (=ate it in small bites, without interest) **2** [T (on)] *infml* to kiss quickly, lightly, and without much feeling: *He pecked her on the cheek.* —see also HENPECKED

peck² *n* **1** a stroke or mark made by pecking **2** [(on)] *infml* a hurried kiss

peck³ *n* a measure of amount for dry substances such as fruit and grain —see TABLE 2

Peck, Greg-o-ry /'gregəri/ (1916–) an American film actor whose many films include *Moby Dick* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

peck-er /'pekəʔ/ *n* **1** *AmE sl* for PENIS **2** **keep one's pecker up** *BrE infml* to remain cheerful even when it is difficult to do so

pecking order /'..,../ *n* *often humor* the social order of a particular group of people or animals, by means of which the members of the group know who is more important and who is less important than themselves

Peck-in-pah /'pekɪnpɑ:/, **Sam** /sæm/ (1925–84) a US film director known for the violence of his films which include *The Wild Bunch* and *Straw Dogs*

peck-ish /'pekɪʃ/ *adj* [F] *infml*, *esp. BrE* slightly hungry

pec-tic /'pektɪk/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or from pectin

pec-tin /'pektɪn/ *n* [U] *tech* a sugar-like chemical substance found in certain fruits, which is important in making JAMS and jellies

pec-to-ral /'pektərəl/ *adj tech* of the chest: *pectoral muscles*

pectoral cross /'... '·/ *n tech* a decorative cross worn on the chest by BISHOPS

pe-cu-li-ar /pɪ'kjuzliəʔ/ *adj* **1** strange or unusual, *esp. in* a troubling or displeasing way: *What a peculiar thing to say!* | *This meat tastes peculiar; I hope it's all right.* | *It's rather peculiar that we were not given this information until now.* **2** [F+to] belonging only (to a particular person, place, time, etc.); *EXCLUSIVE: This style of cooking is peculiar to the south-west of the country.* | *a plant species peculiar to the Scilly Islands* **3** *euph* rather mad; *ECCENTRIC* **4** [F] *infml* rather ill: *I'm feeling a bit peculiar — I think I'll go and lie down.* —see also PECULIARLY

pe-cu-li-ar-i-ty /pɪ'kjuzli'ærɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being peculiar **2** [C] something which is PECULIAR (2) to a particular person, place, time, etc.: *The lack of a written constitution is a peculiarity of the British political system.* **3** [C] a strange or unusual habit, quality, etc.

pe-cu-li-ar-ly /pɪ'kjuzliəli/-ər-/ *adv* **1** especially: *a peculiarly difficult question.* **2** strangely: *He's been behaving most peculiarly.* **3** in a way that is PECULIAR (2) to a particular person, place, time, etc.: *a peculiarly British phenomenon* (=found only in Britain)

pe-cu-ni-a-ry /pɪ'kju:niəri/-nəri/ *adj fml* or *pomp* connected with or consisting of money: *pecuniary gain/motives*

ped-a-gogue /'pedəgɒg/-gɑ:g/ *n* **1** *derog* a teacher who is too concerned with rules **2** *old use* or *humor* a teacher

ped-a-go-gy /'pedəgɒdʒi/-gəʊ-/ *n* [U] *tech* the practice of teaching or the study of teaching methods —**gic** /'pedə'gɒdʒɪk/-'gɑ:-, -'gəʊ-/ —**gical** *adj* —**gically** /kli/ *adv*

ped-al¹ /'pedl/ *n* a barlike part of a machine which can be pressed with the foot in order to control the working of the machine or to drive it: *One of the pedals has come off my bicycle.* | *the accelerator pedal on a car* | *an organ pedal* | *a pedal boat* (=worked by pedals) —see picture at BICYCLE

pedal² *v* [I;T] -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* **1** to work the pedals of (a machine): *I pedalled like mad but nothing happened.* **2** [(+obj)+adv/prep] to ride (a bicycle): *He pedalled the bicycle up the hill.* | *I was just pedalling along.* —see also SOFT-PEDAL

pedal bin /'..../ *n* a container for waste, *esp. in* a kitchen, which stands on the floor and has a lid which is opened by pressing a pedal with your foot

pedal steel gui-tar /'... '·/ *n* see STEEL GUITAR

ped-ant /'pednt/ *n* *derog* a person who pays too much attention to small details and unimportant rules —**ic** /pɪ'dæntɪk/ *adj*: *a pedantic teacher* —**ically** /kli/ *adv*

ped-ant-ry /'pedntri/ *n* *derog* **1** [U] the quality of being a pedant **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a pedantic expression or action

ped-dle /'pedl/ *v* [T] *usu. derog* **1** to try to sell by going

from place to place: *She was sent to prison for peddling drugs.* **2** to try to spread (opinions, false information, etc.): *I don't know who's been peddling these nasty rumours about me.*

ped-dler /'pedləʔ/ *n* **1** *old-fash* a person who peddles dangerous or illegal drugs **2** *AmE* for PEDLAR

ped-e-rast /'pedərəst/ *n* *AmE* for PAEDERAST

ped-es-tal /'pedɪstəl/ *n* **1** the base on which a PILLAR or STATUE stands —see picture at STATUE **2** a position of (too) great respect: *However much you admire her, you shouldn't try and put her on a pedestal.* (=treat her as if she is perfect or better than anyone else)

pe-des-tri-an¹ /pɪ'destriən/ *n* a person travelling on foot, *esp. in* a street or other place used by cars —compare MOTORIST

pedestrian² *adj* **1** *derog* lacking in imagination or any special qualities; dull: *a rather pedestrian student* | *a pedestrian performance* **2** [A] of or for pedestrians: *a pedestrian precinct* (=an area where motor traffic is not allowed)

pedestrian cross-ing /'... '·/ *BrE* || also **crosswalk** *AmE*— *n* a special place for pedestrians to cross the road —see also PELICAN CROSSING, ZEBRA CROSSING

pe-di-a-tri-cian /'pi:diə'trɪʃən/ *n* *AmE* for PAEDIATRICIAN

pe-di-at-rics /'pi:di'ætrɪks/ *n* [U] *AmE* for PAEDIATRICS

ped-i-cure /'pedɪkjʊəʔ/ *n* [C;U] (a) treatment of the feet and toenails, to make them more comfortable or more beautiful —compare MANICURE¹ —**curist** *n*

ped-i-gree¹ /'pedɪgri:/ *n* [C;U] (an official description of) the set of people or animals from whom a person or animal is descended; *ANCESTRY: Examine its pedigree carefully before you buy such an expensive cat.* | *a dog of unknown pedigree* | *a young woman of impeccable pedigree* (=from an ancient family)

pedigree² *adj* [A] (of an animal) descended from a long, recorded, and usu. specially chosen family of animals, and therefore of high quality: *a pedigree dog* —compare MONGREL (1), PUREBRED, THOROUGHbred

Pedigree Chum /'... '·/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a range of different types of food for dogs, made by Pedigree Petfoods; it is generally considered to be high quality food which is good for dogs

ped-i-ment /'pedɪmənt/ *n* a three-sided piece of stone or other material placed above the entrance to a building, found *esp. in* the buildings of ancient Greece

ped-lar || also **peddler** *AmE* /'pedləʔ/ *n* a person who, in the past, went from place to place trying to sell small articles

pe-do-phile /'pi:dəfaɪl/ *n* *AmE* for PAEDOPHILE

pee¹ /pi:/ *v* [I] *infml* for URINATE

pee² *n* *infml* **1** [S] an act of urinating (URINATE): *I must go for/have a pee.* **2** [U] URINE

Pe-e-ble-s-shire /'pi:bəlʃəʔ/ a former COUNTY in S Scotland, now part of the Borders REGION

peek /pi:k/ *v* [I (at)] *infml* to take a quick look at something, *esp. when* one should not: *They caught him peeking through the keyhole at what was going on in the room.* —compare PEEP¹, PEER² —**peek** *n* [S (at)]: *to take/have a peek*

peek-a-boo /'pi:kə'bu:/ also **peepbo**— *interj*, *n* [U] (a shout used in) a game played to amuse babies, in which you repeatedly hide your face and then bring it back into view, saying “peek-a-boo”

peel¹ /pi:l/ *v* **1** [T] to remove the outer covering from (a fruit, vegetable, etc.): *a machine that peels potatoes* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to remove (the outer covering) from something: *She peeled the skin off the banana.* | *He peeled away the outer layers of the onion.* | (fig.) *They peeled off their clothes and jumped into the water.* **3** [I] a to lose an outer covering or surface: *The walls were damp and were peeling.* b (of an outer covering or surface) to come off, *esp. in* small pieces: *Wallpaper was peeling off the damp walls.* | *My skin always peels when I've been in the sun.* **4** **keep one's 'eyes peeled** *infml* to keep careful watch for anything dangerous or unusual which may happen —**er** *n*: *a potato peeler*

peel off *phr v* [I] (of an aircraft) to turn and move away from other aircraft in the air

peel² *n* [U] the outer covering of certain fruits and vegetables, *esp. of* those which one usu. peels before eating: *One*

speaks of orange peel and apple peel, but of tomato skin.
—compare RIND (1); see also PEELINGS; see RIND (USAGE), and see picture at FRUIT

Peel, Robert /'rɒbət||'rɑ:bət/ (1788–1850) a British Conservative politician who established the first official British police force and introduced freedoms for Roman Catholics. He was PRIME MINISTER from 1834 to 1835 and 1841 to 1846.

peel-er /'pi:lə/ *n* 1 a special type of knife for peeling fruit or vegetables 2 *BrE old-fash (often cap.)* a policeman (from Sir Robert Peel, who began the London police force in 1829)

peel-ings /'pi:lɪŋz/ *n* [P] parts peeled off, esp. from potatoes

peep¹ /pi:p/ *v* [I] 1 [(at)] to look at something quickly and secretly, esp. through a hole or other small opening: *I caught him peeping at my work.* | *peeping through the curtains* 2 [+adv/prep] to begin slowly to appear; come partly into view: *The flowers are beginning to peep through the soil.* | *strands of hair peeping out from under her hat* —compare PEEK, PEER²

peep² *n* [S (at)] a quick, incomplete, or secret look: *He took a peep at the back of the book to find out the answers to the questions.*

peep³ *n* 1 [C] a short weak high sound as made by a young bird or a mouse 2 [S] *infml* a sound, esp. something spoken: *I don't want to hear a peep out of you until dinnertime.* (=be quiet!) | *We haven't had a peep out of* (=haven't heard from) *them for over a month.* 3 [C] *BrE* also **beep** (used esp. by or to children) the sound of a car's horn

peep⁴ *v* [I] to make a PEEP³ (1)

peep-bo /'pi:pbaʊ/ *interj, n* [U] PEEKABOO

peep-er /'pi:pə/ *n* 1 [*usu. pl.*] *infml* an eye: *Keep your peepers open!* (=watch carefully!) 2 *usu. derog* someone who PEEPS¹ (1), esp. a PEEPING TOM

peep-hole /'pi:pəʊl/ *n* a small hole, esp. in a door or wall, through which one can peep at something. They are often found in doors for safety reasons so that the person inside can check who is outside before opening the door.

peeping Tom /'pi:pɪŋ 'tɒm||-'tɑ:m/ *n derog* a person who secretly looks at others who think they are not being watched, esp. when they are undressing (from the story of Peeping Tom who is said to have been a TAILOR from the city of Coventry in central England, who peeped at Lady Godiva as she rode through the city with no clothes on and was struck blind)

peep show /'pi:pʃəʊ/ *n* 1 an esp. sexy entertainment (e.g. a film) or object (e.g. a photograph) seen through a small hole *usu.* fitted with glass to make the image bigger 2 a live show with sexy entertainment

peer¹ /piə/ *n* 1 *fml or tech* a person of the same age, class, position, etc., as oneself: *The opinions of his peers are more important to him than his parents' ideas.* | *Children are very susceptible to peer pressure.* —see also PEERLESS 2 also **peer of the realm**— (in Britain) a member of any of five noble ranks, BARON, VISCOUNT, EARL, MARQUIS, and DUKE, who has the right to sit in the House of Lords —see also LIFE PEER, PEERESS

peer² *v* [I+adv/prep] to look very carefully or hard, esp. as if not able to see clearly: *She peered through the mist, trying to find the right path.* | *He peered at me over the top of his glasses* —compare PEEK, PEEP¹

peer-age /'piəri:dʒ/ *n* 1 [(the) C] the rank of a PEER¹ (2): *After ten years in the government she was given a peer-age/was raised to the peerage.* 2 [the+S+sing./pl. v] all the peers, considered as a group 3 [C] a book containing a list of peers and the families from which they are descended

peer-ess /'piəri:z/ *n* 1 a female PEER¹ (1) 2 the wife of a PEER¹ (1)

peer group /'pi:gru:p/ *n* a group of people of the same age, class, background, etc. (as oneself): *Children are very susceptible to peer-group pressure/pressure from their peer group.*

peer-less /'piələs||'piər-/ *adj fml* *apprec* without an equal; better than any other: *peerless beauty*

peer pres-sure /'pi:prəsʃə/ *n* the pressure to be the same as one's peers. This phrase *usu.* means the pressure on young people to smoke, drink, take drugs, etc., when they feel they must do such things to have friends.

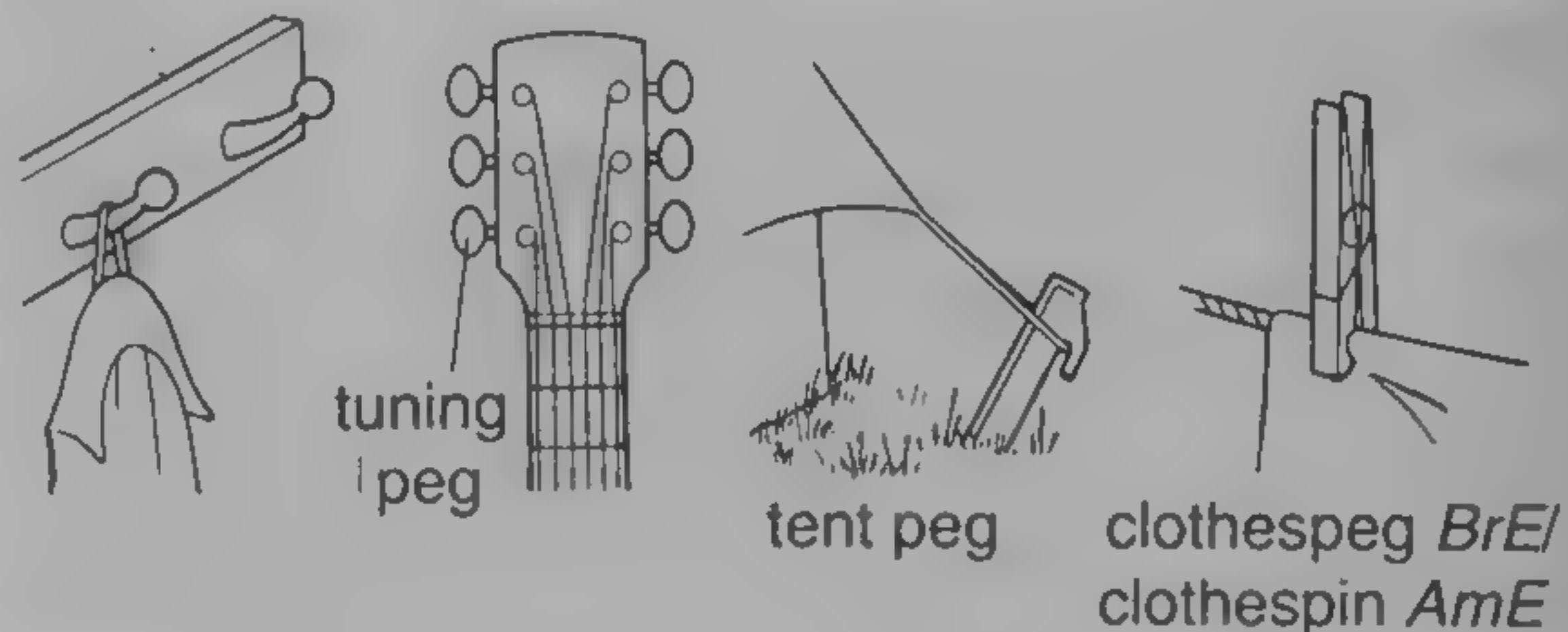
peeve /pi:v/ *v* [T often pass.] *infml* to make (someone) feel angry and offended: *I was very peeved by his refusal to cooperate.*

peev-ish /'pi:vɪʃ/ *adj* bad-tempered; easily annoyed by unimportant things — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

pee-wit /'pi:wɪt/ *n* a LAPWING

peg¹ /peg/ *n* 1 a short piece of wood, metal, etc., *usu.* thinner at one end than at the other, used for fastening things, hanging things on, etc: *Hang your coat on the peg in the hall.* | *First hammer the tent pegs into the ground, then tie the ropes onto them.* | (fig.) *He'll use anything as a peg to hang an argument on.* 2 also **clothes peg** *BrE* || **clothespin** *AmE*— a small piece of plastic or wood with two points, or two rounded ends held together by a spring, used for fixing washed clothes to a line to dry 3 also **tuning peg**— a wooden screw used to tighten or loosen the strings of certain musical instruments 4 *BrE, becoming rare* a small amount of a strong alcoholic drink, esp. WHISKY or BRANDY 5 **off the peg** || **off the rack** (of clothes) not specially made to fit a particular person's measurements: *He buys his suits off the peg.* | *Off-the-peg clothes are usually cheaper.* | (fig.) *off-the-peg computer software* (=not specially written for a particular user) —compare BESPOKE, off the shelf (SHELF) 6 **take someone 'down a peg (or two)** *infml* to show someone that they are not as important as they thought they were —see also **square peg in a round hole** (SQUARE²)

pegs



peg² *v -gg-* [T] 1 to fasten with a peg 2 [(OUT, UP)] *BrE* to fasten (wet clothes) to a rope with a peg for drying 3 to fix or hold (prices, wages, etc.) at a certain level

peg away at sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] *infml* to work hard and steadily at

peg out *phr v* 1 [T] (peg sthg. ↔ out) to mark (a piece of ground) with wooden sticks 2 [I] *infml, esp. BrE* to die

Peg-a-sus /'pegəsəs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a horse with wings

peg-board /'pegbɔ:d||-bɔ:rd/ *n* 1 a small RECTANGULAR board with holes in it used to record a player's points in certain esp. card games 2 [U] material (e.g. FIBREBOARD) with holes in it into which one puts PEGS or hooks for hanging articles on

peg leg /'pi:lɛg/ *n infml* an artificial leg, esp. a wooden one

Peirce /piəs||piərs/, **Charles San-ders** /tʃɑ:ɪz 'sɑ:ndəz||tʃɑ:ɪz 'sændəz/ (1838–1914) an American thinker (PHILOSOPHER), who said that the meaning of an idea depended on the results that idea would have. His most important writings were put together after his death in a book called *Chance, Love and Logic*.

pe-jo-ra-tive /pi'dʒɔ:rətɪv||-'dʒɔ:-, -'dʒɑ:-/ *adj fml* (of a word, phrase, etc.) expressing disapproval or suggesting that someone or something is of little value or importance: *Many women now consider "housewife" a pejorative expression, because it patronizes them.* — *~ly adv*

pe-kin-ese, pekingese /pi:kɪŋ||nɪz-/ also **peke** /pi:k/ *infml*— *n* **pekinese or pekinese** (often cap.) a very small dog with a short flat nose and long silky hair —see picture at DOG

Pe-king /pi:'kiŋ-/ another name for Beijing, now regarded as old-fashioned

Peking duck /'pi:kɪŋ dʌk/ *n* a special Chinese dish of ROAST duck served with SPRING ONIONS and a special SAUCE (=liquid with a particular taste)

pe-koe /'pi:kəʊ/ *n* [U] a kind of tea made from the BUD (=youngest part) of the tea plant. It is esp. popular in the US.

pe-lag-ic /pɪ'lædʒɪk/ *adj fml or tech* connected with or living in the deep sea far from the shore

Pel-é /'peleɪ||pe'leɪ/ (1940–) a Brazilian footballer considered by many to be the greatest footballer ever. He played for Brazil in three World Cups and then went to the US, where he helped to make football more popular.

pel-i-can /'pelɪkən/ *n* **pelicans** or **pelican** a large water bird which catches fish for food and stores them in a deep baglike part under its beak – see picture at WATER BIRD

pelican cross-ing /,pɪˌkən ˈkrɒsɪŋ/ *n* (in Britain) a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING where someone wishing to cross the road can stop the traffic by working special TRAFFIC LIGHTS. Pelican crossings are known by the figures of a standing red man which appears on the lights when it is not safe to cross and a walking green man which appears when it is safe. – compare ZEBRA CROSSING

pel-lag-ra /pɛˈlægrə/ *n* [U] a disease which is caused by a lack of a type of B VITAMIN, and produces great tiredness and disorder of the skin and CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

pel-let /'pelɪt/ *n* **1** [(of)] a small ball of any soft substance made (as if) by rolling between the fingers: *hens fed on pellets of food* **2** a small ball of metal made to be fired from a gun

pell-mell /,pel ˈmel/ *adv* *old-fash* in a disorderly hurry: *children running pell-mell down the street*

pel-lu-cid /pɛˈluːsɪd/ *adj* *lit* very clear; TRANSPARENT: *a pel-lucid stream* – ~ *ly adv*

pel-met /'pelmɪt/ *esp. BrE* || **valance** *esp. AmE*– *n* a narrow piece of wood or cloth above a window that hides the rod on which curtains hang

Pel-o-pon-nese /,peləpəˈniːs/ a mountainous area forming S Greece

Pel-o-pon-ne-sian Wars /,peləpəniːʃən ˈwɔːz||-ˈwɔːrɪz/ [*the*+P] wars between two powers, Sparta and Athens, which are today in Greece, between 431 and 404 BC. Their history was recorded by Thucydides.

pe-lot-a /pəˈlɒtə||-ˈləʊ-/ *n* [U] a ball game played esp. in Spain, America, and the Philippines, in which a long basket tied to the wrist is used to hit the ball against a wall

pelt /pelt/ *v* **1** [T (with)] to attack (someone) by throwing a lot of things at them, quickly and repeatedly: *They pelted the speaker with rotten tomatoes.* | (fig.) *The children pelted him with questions about his journey.* **2** [I (DOWN)] (of rain) to fall heavily and continuously: *I'm not going out there – it's really pelting (down)!* | (*esp. BrE*) *It's pelting with rain.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to run very fast: *The boys came pelting down the hill.*

pelt² *n* (at) **full pelt** (moving, running, etc.) as fast as possible

pelt³ *n* **1** the skin of a dead animal **a** with the fur or hair still on it **b** with the fur or hair removed and ready to be prepared as leather **2** the fur or hair of a living animal

pel-vic /'pelvɪk/ *adj med* of or near the pelvis: *the pelvic bones*

pel-vis /'pelvɪs/ *n* -vises or -ves /vɪːz/ the bowl-shaped frame of bones at the base of the SPINE, to which the leg bones are joined – see picture at SKELETON

Pem-broke /'pembrʊk||-brəʊk/ a market town in Dyfed, SW Wales

Pem-broke-shire /'pembrʊkʃəː || -brəʊk-/ a former COUNTY in SW Wales now forming part of Dyfed

pem-mi-can, **pemican** /'pemɪkən/ *n* [U] dried meat beaten into small pieces and pressed into flat round shapes, used by travellers in distant places where food cannot be found

pen¹ /pen/ *n* **1** an instrument for writing or drawing with ink: *a ballpoint pen* | *a fountain pen* | *a felt-tip pen* **2** **the pen is mightier than the sword** *quote* words and books can have a stronger influence on events than the use of force (from a poem by Edward Bulwer-Lytton) **3** **put/set pen to paper** to start to write

pen² *v* -nn- [T (to)] *pomp* to write with a pen

pen³ *n* (*often in comb.*) a small piece of land enclosed by a fence, used esp. for keeping animals in: *a sheep pen* – see also PLAYPEN

pen⁴ *v* -nn- [T (UP, IN, IN)] **1** to shut (animals) in a pen **2** to shut (people) in a small space

pen⁵ *n* *AmE sl* a prison (short for PENITENTIARY)

pe-nal /'piːnl/ *adj* **1** [A] of or for legal punishment: *the*

government's penal policy (=how it runs prisons, punishes criminals, etc.) | *a penal colony/settlement* (=place where prisoners are kept) *on an island* | *He was sentenced to 12 years' penal servitude.* (=imprisonment with hard physical work) **2** [A] punishable by law: *a penal offence* **3** very severe; severely unpleasant: *penal rates of taxation* – ~ *ly adv*

penal code /'piːnəl ˈkɒd/ *n* a system of laws and statements of the punishments for breaking them

pe-nal-ize also -ise *BrE* /'piːnəl-aɪz||'piː-, 'pe-/ *v* [T (for)] **1** to put (someone) in a very unfavourable or unfair position: *The new tax laws penalize people who earn less than £7000 a year.* **2** (in sports) to punish (a team or player) by giving an advantage to the other team, esp. by giving the other team a PENALTY (3b): *England were penalized for wasting time.* – *ization* /,piːnəl-aɪ-ˈzeɪʃən||,piːnəl-ə-, 'pe-/ *n* [U]

penal sys-tem /'piːnəl ˈsɪstəm/ *n* a system of legal punishment. In Britain this includes FINES (=a payment of money), PROBATION (=going free under certain conditions), and imprisonment, but does not include the DEATH PENALTY.

pen-al-ty /'penlti/ *n* **1** [(for)] a punishment for breaking a law, rule, or legal agreement: *She has paid* (=suffered) *the penalty for her crimes with five years in prison.* | *The law imposes tough penalties on advertisers who do not tell the truth.* | *Some politicians would like to restore the death penalty for people convicted of terrorism.* | *The maximum penalty for murder is life imprisonment.* | *Fishing in this river is forbidden – penalty £5.* **2** [(of)] suffering or loss that is the result of one's unwise action or of one's condition or situation: *One of the penalties of fame is that people point at you in the street.* **3** (in sports) **a** a disadvantage given to a player or team for breaking a rule: *If you pick up the ball with your hand in golf, you suffer a penalty.* **b** an advantage given to a team because the other team have broken a rule: *Liverpool were given/awarded a penalty (kick) when one of their opponents handled the ball.* **c** also **penalty goal** /'... -/ (in football) a GOAL gained by this means

penalty ar-e-a /'... -/ also **penalty box** *infml*– *n* (in football) a space in front of the GOAL where the breaking of a rule means that the opposing team gets a PENALTY (3b)

penalty box /'... -/ *n* **1** (in ICE HOCKEY) a box in which a player must sit for several minutes if he has broken the rules while playing: *The referee sent him to the penalty box for two minutes for high sticking (holding his stick in a way that is dangerous to other players).* **2** (in football) the penalty area

penalty clause /'... -/ *n* part of a contract which places penalties on the person(s) doing the work if it is not completed on time

penalty goal /'... -/ *n* a GOAL scored by a penalty kick in RUGBY

penalty kick /'... -/ also **penalty**– *n* **1** (in football) a free kick at the GOAL given to a team because the other team have broken a rule in the penalty area. The GOAL is defended only by the GOALKEEPER. **2** (in RUGBY) a FREE KICK

penalty points /'... -/ *BrE* || **points** *AmE*– *n* [*usu. pl.*] points given as penalties for certain driving offences and which appear on the driver's licence. When the points reach a certain total the driver is forbidden to drive for a set period.

penalty shoot-out /,pɛnəlɪ ˈʃuːt-ɔʊt/ *n* an additional competition played at the end of some football matches to decide who wins, when the match has ended in a draw. Players from each team take penalty kicks, and the team that scores (SCORE (1)) the most wins the match.

pen-ance /'penəns/ *n* [U (for)] the action of willingly making oneself suffer, esp. for religious reasons, to show that one is sorry for having done wrong: *do penance for one's sins*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In some Christian churches, esp. the Roman Catholic church, penance takes the form of saying prayers and is given by a priest after telling him what one has done wrong and being forgiven for it. ◀

pen-and-ink¹ /,piːn-ɪŋk/ *adj* (of a drawing) produced using a pen and (*usu.* black) ink, rather than brush and paint, and therefore using lines and shading rather than solid colours

pen-and-ink² /ˌpɛn.ənd.ɪŋk/ *n* BrE *humor sl* an unpleasant smell, a STINK² (1)

pence /pens/ BrE 1 (often in comb.) *pl.* of PENNY: *twopence | eleven pence | a few pence* — see PENNY (USAGE), compare CENT 2 -pence also *p*— having the value of the stated number of pennies: *a 13-pence stamp | a 5p piece (=coin)* 3 not have two pence to rub together *infml* to be very poor: *He couldn't possibly afford a holiday abroad—he hasn't got two pence to rub together!*

pen-chant /ˈpɒnʃən, ˈpɛntʃənt/ *n* [(for) usu. sing.] Fr a liking, esp. for something that is slightly disapproved of by other people: *a penchant for fast cars*

pen-cil¹ /ˈpensəl/ 1 a narrow pointed usu. wooden instrument used for writing or drawing, containing a thin stick of a black or coloured material: *written with a pencil | in pencil | a pencil sketch | to sharpen a blunt pencil* 2 [(of)] a narrow beam (of light) beginning from or ending in a small point — see also EYEBROW PENCIL

pencil² *v* -ll- BrE || -l- AmE

pencil sbdy./sthg. *in phr v* [T] to include for the present time, e.g. on a list or in an arrangement, with the possibility of being changed later: *I've pencilled you in for the match on Saturday; tell me as soon as you know for certain if you can play.*

pencil push-er /ˈpɛnsəl.ɪʃ/ *n* AmE a PEN PUSHER

pen-dant, -dent /ˈpendənt/ *n* a hanging piece of jewellery, esp. a long chain worn round the neck with a small decorative object hanging from it

pen-dent /ˈpendənt/ *adj fml or tech* 1 hanging supported from above: *a pendent lamp* 2 hanging over; sticking out beyond a surface: *pendent rocks*

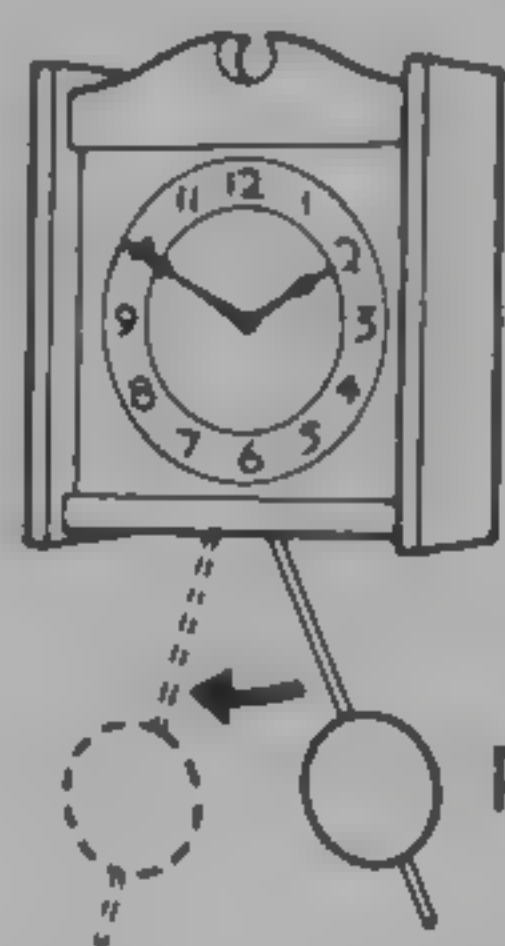
pend-ing¹ /ˈpendɪŋ/ *prep fml* while waiting for; until: *We delayed our decision pending his return from Europe.*

pending² *adj* 1 [F] *fml* not yet decided or settled: *The letter's in the pending file/tray* (=a FILE/TRAY where papers are kept which cannot be dealt with yet, e.g. because they are about something which has not yet happened, or because more information is needed) 2 [A] soon to happen; IMPENDING

pen-du-lous /ˈpendjʊləs/ *adj fml* hanging down loosely so as to swing freely: *pendulous breasts* — *~ly adv*

pen-du-lum /ˈpendjʊləm/ *n* 1 a weight that hangs from a fixed point and swings freely 2 a rod with a weight at the bottom, used to control the working of a clock 3 something that tends to change regularly from one position to an opposite one: *Since the last election, the pendulum of public opinion has swung back against the government.*

pendulum



pendulum

Pe-nel-o-pe /pəˈneləpi/ *n* in CLAS-

SICAL MYTHOLOGY, the wife of Odysseus who remained faithful to him during his long absence

pen-e-trate /ˈpenɪtreɪt/ *v* 1 [I (into, through); T] to enter, pass, cut, or force a way (into or through): *The knife penetrated his stomach. | The rain had penetrated right through (his clothes) to his skin. | The noise of the explosion penetrated the thickest walls. | They are hoping to penetrate the Japanese market (=begin selling goods there) with their latest product.* 2 [T] to see into or through: *My eyes couldn't penetrate the gloom. | (fig.) the scientists who first penetrated the mystery of the atom | He had a false beard on, but we soon penetrated his disguise. (=recognized that it was him)* 3 [I] *infml* to come to be understood: *I heard what you said, but it didn't penetrate.* — compare PIERCE; see also IMPENETRABLE — **-trable** /trəbəl/ *adj* — **-trability** /ˌpenɪtrəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

pen-e-trat-ing /ˈpenɪtreɪtɪŋ/ *adj* 1 (of the eye, sight, a question, etc.) sharp and searching: *his penetrating gaze* 2 (of a person, the mind, etc.) able to understand clearly and deeply; ACUTE 3 (of a sound) sharp and loud: *a penetrating whistle* 4 spreading and reaching everywhere: *penetrating dampness* — *~ly adv*

pen-e-tra-tion /ˌpenɪˈtreɪʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the act or process of penetrating: *The company has had a successful first year at home but penetration of the international market has been slow.* 2 *fml* *apprec* the ability to understand quickly

and clearly; INSIGHT 3 *tech* the putting of the male sex organ into the female sex organ when having sex

pen-e-tra-tive /ˈpenɪtrətv/ *adj* 1 able to penetrate easily 2 (of a person, their mind, etc.) keen; INTELLIGENT: *her penetrative observations* — *~ly adv*

pen friend /ˈpɛn frɪnd/ || **pen pal** *esp. AmE* — *n* a person, esp. in a foreign country, with whom one has made friends by writing letters, but whom one has probably never met. Students learning a foreign language are often encouraged to find a pen friend, and this can be done through organizations established for this purpose.

pen-guin /ˈpɛŋɡwɪn/ *n* an often large black-and-white seabird, esp. of the Antarctic, which cannot fly but uses its wings for swimming — see picture at WATER BIRD

Penguin *tdmk* a PAPERBACK book produced by Penguin Books. Probably the best known name of paperbacks, Penguin were the first good books to appear as paperbacks at a reasonable price.

pen-i-cil-lin /ˌpenɪˈsɪlɪn/ *n* [U] a substance used as a medicine to destroy certain bacteria in people and animals; a powerful ANTIBIOTIC. It was the first antibiotic and although others are now more often used it is the best-known. Some people, esp. older people, use the word to mean any antibiotic.

pe-nin-su-la /pɪˈnɪnsjələ/ *n* a piece of land almost completely surrounded by water but joined to a larger mass of land: *Italy is a peninsula.* — **-lar adj**

Peninsular War /ˌpɛnɪnsjələˈwɔː/ [the] a war fought in Spain and Portugal between France and Britain, which began in 1808 when Napoleon I INVADED Spain, and continued until he was defeated in 1814

pe-nis /ˈpiːnɪs/ *n* the outer sex organ of male animals that is used for passing water from the body and in sexual activity

pen-i-tent¹ /ˈpenɪtənt/ *adj fml* feeling or showing that one is sorry for having done wrong and that one intends not to do so again; REPENTANT — opposite **impenitent** — *~ly adv* — **-tence** *n* [U (for)]

penitent² *n* a person who is doing or suffering religious PENANCE

pen-i-ten-tial /ˌpenɪˈtenʃəl/ *adj* of penitence or PENANCE — *~ly adv*

pen-i-ten-tia-ry /ˌpenɪˈtenʃəri/ *n* a prison, esp. in the US: *the state penitentiary*

pen-knife /ˈpen-naɪf/ also **pocketknife** — *n* -knives /naɪvz/ a small knife with usu. two blades that fold into the handle, usu. carried in the pocket — compare SWISS ARMY KNIFE

pen-man-ship /ˈpenmənʃɪp/ *n* [U] *fml* the art of writing by hand, or skill in this art: *his flawless penmanship*

Penn /pen/, **William** (1644–1718) an English leader of the Quaker religious movement, who began the Quaker COLONY (2) of Pennsylvania, now part of the US

pen name /ˈpɛn neɪm/ *n* a name used by a writer instead of his/her real name — see also PSEUDONYM

pen-nant /ˈpenənt/ *n* 1 a usu. long narrow pointed flag, esp. as used on ships for signalling or by schools, sports teams, etc. 2 (in BASEBALL) the prize given to the best team in both the American and National Leagues; these two teams then go on to play in the World Series: *The Cubs are in the pennant race for the first time in years (they have a chance to win the pennant).*

Penney, J. C. see J. C. PENNEY

pen-nies /ˈpeniz/ *pl.* of PENNY — see PENNY (USAGE)

pen-ni-less /ˈpenɪləs/ *adj* having no money; very poor: *The debt-collectors took all his money, and he was left completely penniless.*

Pen-nines /ˈpenaɪnz/ [the] a mountain range running down the centre from the north to N central England. Because of its position it is also called the BACKBONE of England.

Pennine Way /ˌpɛnɪn ˈweɪ/ [the] a very long path (250 miles) along the Pennines, opened to walkers in 1965

pen-non /ˈpenən/ *n* a long narrow pointed flag, esp. as carried on the end of a LANCE (=spear) by soldiers on horseback

pen-n'orth /ˈpenəθ/ BrE **pen-ny-worth** /ˈpenɪwəθ/ -wəθ/ AmE, BrE *fml* — *n* [(of)] old-fash as much as can be bought for a penny: *a penn'orth/six penn'orth of sweets*

Penn-syl-va-ni-a /ˌpensəl'veɪniə/, -sɪl-/ *written abbrev.* **PA** a state in the NE of the US, known as an important producer of steel and coal. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY) and was a former centre of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Pennsylvania Dutch /ˌpɛnsɪlˈvæniə ˈdʌtʃ/ *n, adj* (of or being) a group of people living in Pennsylvania who are descended from German settlers that went there in the 1600s and 1700s to find religious freedom. The Pennsylvania Dutch are Protestants who still wear clothes of that period, do not have cars, etc. They include the AMISH and the MENNONITES.

pen-ny /ˈpeni/ *n pennies or pence* /pens/ *BrE*— **1** [C] a also **p** /pi:/ — (in Britain since 1971) a unit of money equal to one hundredth (1/100) of a pound: *That'll be 75p, please. | a 20p/50p piece | It only costs a few pence.* **b** a small BRONZE coin worth one penny: *a stack of pennies* **2** [C] (in Britain before 1971) a unit of money equal to one 12th (1/12) of a SHILLING: *The book cost two and sixpence.* **3** [C] (in the US and Canada) (a coin worth) a cent **4** [S *usu. in negatives*] a small amount of money: *The journey won't cost you a penny if you come in my car.* **5** a **penny for them/for your thoughts** (*usu. said to someone who has been silent for a while or appears deep in thought*) tell me what you are thinking about **6** **be two/ten a penny** *infml* to be very cheap and/or easy to obtain, and therefore of little value: *Brilliant students are ten a penny at that college.* **7** **in for a penny, in for a pound** *BrE* if something has been started it should be finished, whatever the cost may be **8** **the penny (has) dropped** *BrE infml* the meaning (of something said) was/has been at last understood: *He puzzled over her remark for a moment, and then at last the penny dropped.* **9** **-penny** /pəni/ *strong peni*/worth the stated number of pence: *a fourpenny stamp | a sixpenny piece (=coin)* —see also HALFPENNY, PRETTY PENNY, **spend a penny** (SPEND)

▷ **USAGE** In Britain, the US, and Canada, the plural **pen-nies** is used when speaking or writing of the coins themselves: *He had some coins in his pocket, but no pen-nies.* In Britain, when writing about an amount of money, use **pence** (in the US, **cents**): *It will only cost a few pence* or (in prices) **p**: *30 p a packet.* When saying an amount of money use **pence**, or **p** (*infml*): *six pence/ten p* (, · '·). The singular form for an amount of money is *a/one penny, one pence, one p* (in informal speech) or *1p* (when writing prices).◁

Penny Black /ˌpɛni ˈblæk/ *n* the first British postage stamp, introduced in 1840, and the first in general use with ADHESIVE. It is highly valued by collectors although not the rarest British stamp.

penny dread-ful /ˌpɛni ˈdredfəl/ *n BrE* a book about exciting adventures or violent crime, originally costing one penny, of a type that was common in the 19th century

penny-far-thing /ˌpɛni ˈfɑːθɪŋ/ *n* a bicycle with a very large front wheel and a very small back wheel, used in the late 19th century

penny-half-penny /ˌpɛni ˈhɑːlf ˈpɛni/ *n BrE* THREE-HALFPENCE

penny pinch-er /ˌpɛni ˈtʃɪnʃər/ *n derog* a person who is unwilling to spend or give money —**penny-pinching** *adj, n* [U]

penny whis-tle /ˌpɛni ˈwɪsəl/ *n* a simple tubelike musical instrument, played by blowing and moving the fingers. Penny whistles are commonly used in Irish music.

pen-ny-worth /ˈpenɪwəθ/ ˌwɜːrθ/ *n* [(of)] *BrE fml or AmE* a PENN'ORTH

pe-nol-o-gy /piːˈnɒlədʒi/ ˌnɒːl-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the punishment of criminals, the operation of prisons, etc.

pen pal /ˈpɛn ˈpæl/ *n esp. AmE* for PEN FRIEND

pen push-er /ˈpɛn ˈpuʃər/ ˌpuʃ-/ *usu. pencil pusher AmE— n humor or derog* a clerk

pen-sion /ˈpensən/ *n* an amount of money paid regularly, esp. by a government or company, to someone who can no longer earn (enough) money by working, esp. when they are old or ill. Money is previously paid regularly, usu. for many years, into the pension system by the person, and the amount they pay decides the size of the pension: *She went to the post office to draw (=collect) her pension. | He retired on a company pension. | a war/retirement pension | a pension scheme* —see also OLD AGE PENSION

pension² *v*

pension sbdy. ↔ *off phr v* [T] to dismiss from work, esp. because of old age or illness, but continue to pay a pension to: *She was pensioned off at 55. | (fig., infml) It's time your rusty old bike was pensioned off.* (=got rid of)

pen-si-on³ /ˈpɒnsiən ˌpaːnsiˈəʊn/ *n* a house in a non-English-speaking country where one can get a room and meals; BOARDINGHOUSE

pen-sion-a-ble /ˈpensənəbəl/ *adj* giving one the right to receive a pension: *She is of pensionable age. | a pensionable job*

pension book /ˈpɛn ˈbʊk/ *n* (in Britain) a book of forms which a person signs each week when they go to collect their OLD AGE PENSION

pen-sion-er /ˈpensənər/ *n BrE* || *senior citizen AmE*— a person who is receiving a pension esp. an OLD AGE PENSION: *an old age pensioner* —see also CHELSEA PENSIONER, OAP

pension fund /ˈpɛn ˈfʌnd/ *n* a FUND (=a sum of money for a special purpose) which is invested (INVEST¹). The money which is gained from the investment is used to pay pensions to people who have paid money, usu. a fixed amount each month, into the fund.

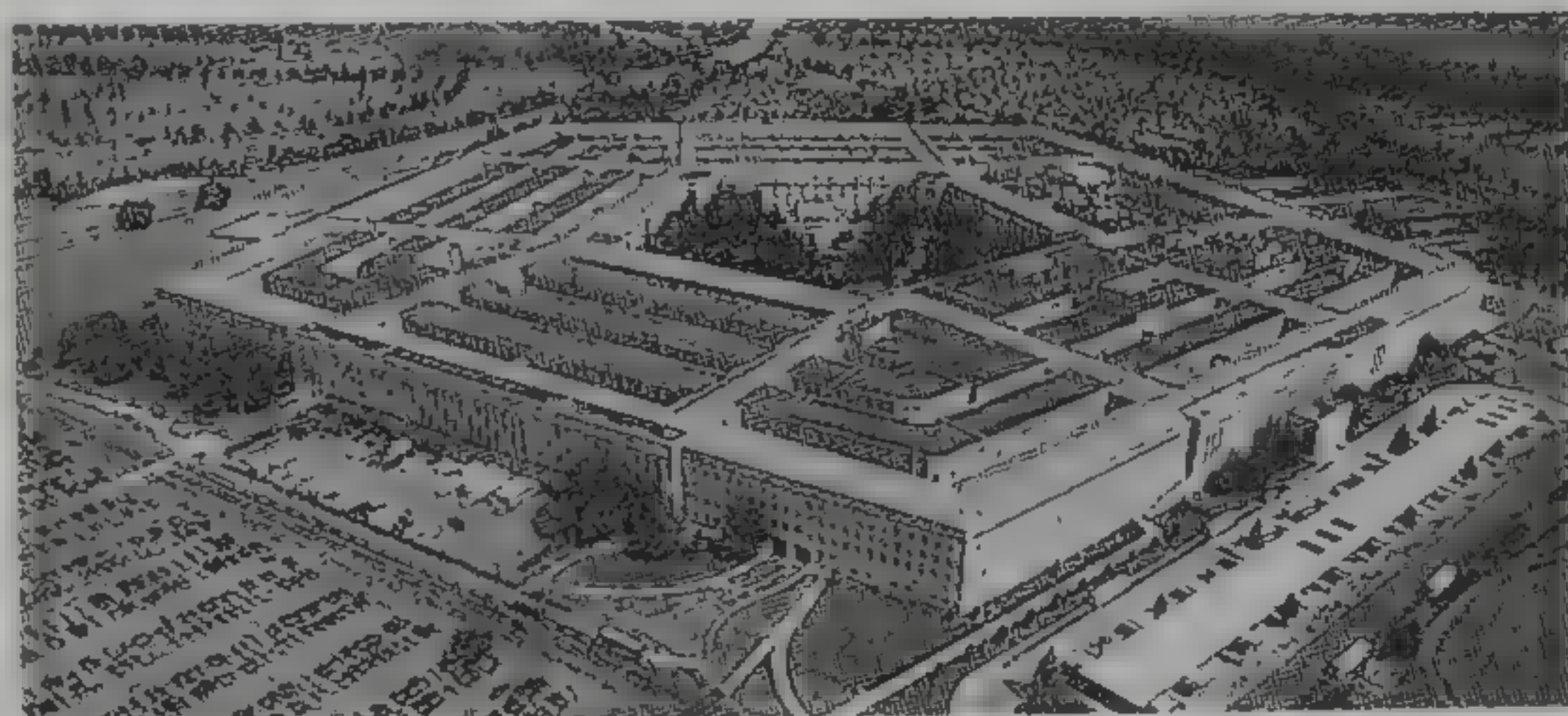
pension plan /ˈpɛn ˈplæn/ ˌplæn/ || also **retirement plan** *AmE*— *n* a system by which a person who will not get a pension from an employer pays money, usu. a fixed amount each month, to an insurance company which INVESTS the money to provide the person with a pension

pension scheme /ˈpɛn ˈskiːm/ ˌskiːm/ || also **retirement plan** *AmE*— *n* a system in many companies in which both the company and the workers pay money into a pension fund for the workers

pen-sive /ˈpensiv/ *adj* deeply or sadly thoughtful: *a pensive smile | You're looking very pensive — is anything wrong? — ~ly adv — ~ness n* [U]

pen-ta-gon /ˈpentəɡən ˌɡɑːn/ *n* a flat shape with five esp. equal sides and five angles — *~al* /penˈtæɡənəl/ *adj*

The Pentagon



Pentagon [the] the large five-sided building near Washington D.C. which contains the main offices of the US Department of Defense, and from which the armed forces of the US are directed: *The Pentagon is planning a massive air-strike.*

Pentagon Pa-pers /ˈpɛntəɡən ˌpæpəz/ [the] papers taken from the Pentagon which discussed American involvement in Vietnam and were printed in the *New York Times*. The president and the people who worked for him tried to prevent the papers being printed, but the US Supreme Court said that the newspaper had a right to print them under the First Amendment. The case looked at the government's right to keep important things secret against the public's right to know what its government is doing.

pen-ta-gram /ˈpentəɡræm/ *n* a five-pointed star, used as a magic sign

pen-tam-e-ter /penˈtæmətər/ *n* a line of poetry with five main beats

Pen-ta-teuch /ˈpentətjuːk ˌtuːk/ [the] the first five books of the OLD TESTAMENT

pen-tath-lon /penˈtæθlən/ *n* a sports event in which those taking part have to compete against each other in five different sports: running, swimming, riding, shooting, and FENCING —compare DECATHLON

Pen-tax /ˈpentæks/ tdmk a camera made by the Japanese company Pentax

Pen-te-cost /ˈpentɪkɒst ˌkɒst, -kɑːst/ **1** also **Shabuoth, Shavuot**— (in the Jewish religion) a holiday 50 days after Passover, which celebrates Moses receiving the Ten

Commandments from God on Mount Sinai 2 (in the Christian religion) the seventh Sunday after Easter; Whitsunday

Pen-te-cos-tal /ˌpɛntɪˈkɒstəl-ˈkɔːs-, -ˈkɑːs-/ *adj* 1 of or suggesting Pentecost 2 concerning any of various Christian groups with particular interest in the gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT e.g. FAITH HEALING and SPEAKING IN TONGUES: *Pentecostal church/service*

Pen-te-cos-ta-list /ˌpɛntɪˈkɒstəl-ɪst-ˈkɔːs-, -ˈkɑːs-/ *n* a member of a Pentecostal (2) group — ~ *ism* *n* [U]

pent-house /ˈpɛnhaʊs/ *n* -houses /ˌhaʊzɪz/ a small house or set of rooms built on top of a tall building, often considered very desirable to live in: *the film star's luxury penthouse* | *the hotel's penthouse suite*

Penthouse an American magazine for men which has serious articles but is known esp. for its pictures of young women with few clothes on and its articles about sex

Pen-ton-ville /ˈpɛntənvil/ also **Pentonville prison** /ˌpɛntənˈvɪl-/ a large prison for men, in N London

pent up /ˌpɛnt ʌp/ *adj* shut up within narrow limits; not allowed to be free or freely expressed: *I don't like being pent up in the house all the time.* | *A good argument allows you to release your pent-up emotions.*

pe-nul-ti-mate /pɪˈnʌltɪmət/ *adj* [A] next to the last

pe-num-bra /pɪˈnʌmbərə/ *n* *tech* a slightly dark area between full shadow or darkness and full light

pe-nu-ri-ous /pɪˈnjuəriəs/ *adj* *fml* very poor — ~ *ly* *adv*

pen-u-ry /ˈpɛnjʊəri/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being very poor; POVERTY: *living in utter penury*

pe-on /ˈpiːən/ *n* *AmE* 1 a person who works at a boring or physically hard job for low pay: *I worked and saved to go back to college and escape the peon job market.* 2 (in Mexico and South America) a person who works as a kind of slave to pay his debts

pe-o-ny /ˈpiːəni/ *n* a garden plant with large round white, pink, or esp. dark red flowers

peo-ple /ˈpiːpəl/ *n* 1 [P] persons; human beings: *Were there many people at the meeting?* | *buses crammed with people* | *Most people seem to like her.* | *People in the south of England speak in a different way from people in the north.* | *I like theatre people.* (=people connected with the theatre) 2 [P] persons in general; persons other than oneself: *If you do that, people will start to talk.* (=about your behaviour) | *People enjoy reading about the rich and famous.* 3 [(the) P] all the ordinary members of a state; all those persons in a society who do not have special rank or position: *Abraham Lincoln spoke of "government of the people, by the people, for the people".* | *The Prime Minister claimed he had a mandate from the people.* | *Like many politicians, he likes to be thought of as a man of the (common) people.* 4 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a race; nation: *The Chinese are a hard-working people.* | *the peoples of Africa* 5 [P] a the persons from whom one is descended and/or to whom one is related: *Her people have lived in this valley for over 200 years.* b *old-fash infml* one's close relatives, esp. parents: *One day I'll take you home to meet my people.* 6 of 'all people: a especially; more than any one else: *You of all people ought to have been able to understand what he was saying.* b surprisingly, out of all those who might be expected to be present, to take action, etc.: *For her, of all people, to complain about you being late for work!* (=she is often late herself) — see also LITTLE PEOPLE; see FOLK (USAGE), MAN (USAGE), PERSON (USAGE)

people ² *v* [T *usu. pass.*] 1 to live in (a place); INHABIT: *a desert peopled only by wandering tribes* 2 [(with)] *usu. derog* to fill or supply with people of the stated type: *This office is peopled with petty-minded bureaucrats.*

People ¹ a US magazine with many short articles about and pictures of well-known people, esp. people known from television and film

People ², **The** a British popular Sunday newspaper

people's re-pub-lic /ˌpɛpəl-ˈrɛpəlɪk/ *n* 1 [*cap.*] a name or title taken by some SOCIALIST or COMMUNIST states: *the People's Republic of China* 2 *BrE humor, usu. derog* a place which has a left-wing local council: *the people's republic of Lambeth*

pep ¹ /pɛp/ *n* [U] *infml* keen activity and forcefulness; VIGOUR: *Put a bit more pep into your work!* — see also PEP PILL, PEP TALK

pep ² *v* -pp-

pep sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to make more active or interesting; ENLIVEN: *A holiday is just what you need to pep you up.* | *The food tasted rather bland, so she added some spices to pep it up a little.*

PEP /ˌpiːz ɪz ˈpiːz/ *n* *BrE* a Personal Equity Plan; a government proposal allowing people to buy relatively small amounts of SHARES in British companies without having to pay certain taxes

pep-per ¹ /ˈpɛpə/ *n* 1 [U] a a hot-tasting greyish or pale yellowish powder made from crushed peppercorns, used for making food taste better — see also BLACK PEPPER, WHITE PEPPER b a powder like this, esp. CAYENNE PEPPER or PAPRIKA, made from certain other plants 2 [C] also **bell pepper** *AmE* (a plant with) a large round or long narrow red, green, or yellow fruit used esp. as a vegetable, with a special, sometimes hot taste: *I bought some green peppers for the salad.* — see also SWEET PEPPER, and see picture at VEGETABLE

pepper ² *v* [T] 1 [(with)] *infml* a to hit repeatedly, esp. with small shots: *I'll pepper his behind with buckshot if he comes on my land again!* b to cause to appear repeatedly in: *The report was peppered with mistakes/statistics.* 2 to add or give the taste of pepper to (food)

pepper-and-salt /ˌpɛpə-ˈsɔːlt/ *adj* [A] having small spots of black and white mixed together to give a greyish appearance: *a pepper-and-salt beard*

pep-per-corn /ˈpɛpəkɔːn/ *n* the seedlike fruit of a tropical plant, which is dried and crushed to make pepper

peppercorn rent /ˌpɛpəkɔːn ˈrɛnt/ *n* *BrE* a very small amount of money (much less than one would expect) paid as rent

pep-per mill /ˌpɛp-ˈmɪl/ also **pepper grind-er** /ˌpɛp-ˈɡraɪnd-ə/ *n* a small apparatus worked by hand and used for crushing peppercorns into powder

pep-per-mint /ˈpɛpəˌmɪnt/ *n* 1 [U] a a MINT³ (1) plant with a special strong taste, used esp. in making sweets and medicine b the taste of this plant: *peppermint liqueur/flavouring* 2 [C] also **mint** — a sweet with this taste

pepper pot /ˈpɛp-ˈpɒt/ *BrE* || **pepper shak-er** /ˈpɛp-ˈʃaːk-ə/ *AmE* — *n* a container with small holes in the top, used for shaking pepper onto food — compare SALTCELLAR

pep-per-y /ˈpɛpəri/ *adj* 1 (of food) like or tasting of pepper 2 (of a person) easily made angry; IRRITABLE

pep pill /ˈpɛp ˈpɪl/ *n* *infml* a PILL containing a drug which is taken to make one quicker in thought and action or happier, for a short time; STIMULANT

pep ral-ly /ˈpɛp ˈrælɪ/ *n* (in the US) a meeting of all of the students in a HIGH SCHOOL, before a school sports event, to encourage the team to win, and to encourage the students to support their team and their school. At most pep rallies, CHEER LEADERS lead the school in loud, happy cheers for the team. Often the school's song is sung at the end of the pep rally.

Pep-si /ˈpɛpsi/ *tdmk* the name of an American COLA drink, one of the two best known colas in the world

pep-sin /ˈpɛpsɪn/ *n* [U] a liquid in the stomach that changes food into a form that can be used by the body

pep talk /ˈpɛp ˈtɔːk/ *n* *infml* a usu. short talk intended to encourage the listener(s) esp. to work harder or win: *The manager gave his team a pep talk at half time.*

pep-tic ul-cer /ˌpɛptɪk ˈʌlsə/ *n* a sore painful place inside the stomach caused by the action of pepsin

Pep-to-bis-mol /ˌpɛptəʊˈbɪzmɒl/ *tdmk* *AmE* an American medicine for the stomach which is a thick, pink, sweet-tasting liquid

Pepys /ˈpiːps/, **Sam-u-el** /ˈsæmjʊəl/ (1633–1703) an English writer who was an official in the navy, best known for his DIARY which records full details of social life and conditions at the time

per /pə/; *strong* pɜː/ *prep* 1 (esp. of amounts, prices, etc.) for each: *These apples cost 40 pence per pound.* | *My car does about 12 miles per litre.* (=for each litre of petrol) | *How much beer will they drink per head?* (=how much will each person drink) 2 (of time) during each: *How many of these can you do per day/a day?* 3 *infml* according to: *The work has been done as per your instructions.* 4 *as per usual* *infml* (esp. of something that one disapproves of) as usual: *He was late, as per usual.*

—see also PER ANNUM, PER CAPITA, PER CENT

per-ad-ven-ture /ˌperəd'ventʃə/ *adv* **old use** 1 perhaps 2 (after *if* or *lest*) by chance

per-am-bu-late /pə'ræmbjʊleɪt/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] *fml* to walk about, round, or up and down (a place) without hurry —**lation** /pə'ræmbjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

per-am-bu-la-tor /pə'ræmbjʊleɪtə/ *n fml* for PRAM

per an-num /pər 'ænəm/ *written abbrev. p.a. adv esp. tech* for or in each year: a salary of £11,000 *per annum*

per cap-i-ta /pə 'kæpɪtə/ *adj, adv fml or tech* for or by each person: What is the average *per capita* income in this country?

per-ceive /pə'si:v/ *v* [T not in progressive forms] *fml* to (come to) have knowledge of (something) through one of the senses (esp. the sight) or through the mind; become conscious of or understand: He *perceived* a subtle change in her manner. [+*(that)*] They *perceived* that they were unwelcome and left. [+*wh-*] We were unable to *perceive* where the problem lay. [+*obj+v-ing*] I *perceived* a small trickle of blood coming from the patient's ear. —see also PERCEPTIBLE, PERCEPTION

▷ **USAGE** You **perceive** (=notice, become conscious of) something that exists outside your thoughts: I **perceived** a change in the tone of her voice. You **conceive** (=form in the mind) a completely new idea: She **conceived** a bold plan of escape. ◀

per cent¹, **percent** /pə'sent/ *adj, adv* (calculated) in or for each 100: This restaurant has a 10 *percent* (=10%) service charge. | (fig.) I am a hundred *per cent* (=totally) in agreement with you.

per cent² *n* **per cent** one part in or for each 100: This company can only supply 30 *per cent* (=30%) of what we need. | to charge interest at fourteen *per cent* (=14%)

per-cen-tage /pə'sentɪdʒ/ *n* 1 [C (of) *usu. sing.*] an amount stated as if it is part of a whole which is 100; PROPORTION: a high/large/small *percentage* | What *percentage* of babies die of scarlet fever every year? | The numbers are small, in *percentage* terms, but significant. 2 [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* a share of profits: She gets a *percentage* on every copy they sell. 3 [U *usu. in negatives*] *infml* advantage; profit: There's no *percentage* in being unadventurous; you've got to think big.

per-cep-ti-ble /pə'septɪbəl/ *adj fml* that can be perceived; noticeable: a barely *perceptible* difference —opposite **imperceptible** —**bly** *adv*

per-cep-tion /pə'sepʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* 1 the action of perceiving: a drug which alters one's *perception* of visual stimuli 2 also **perceptiveness** /pə'septɪvni:s/ *adj* — the ability to perceive well; keen natural understanding: a man of great *perception*

per-cep-tive /pə'septɪv/ *adj* *apprec* showing an unusually good ability to notice and understand: a *perceptive* woman | *perceptive* comments —compare SENSITIVE —**ly** *adv*

perch¹ /pɜ:tʃ/ *n* 1 a branch, rod, etc., where a bird rests, often specially provided for the purpose 2 *infml* a high position in which a person or building is placed: From our *perch* up there on top of the cliff we can see the whole town. | (fig.) I'm glad to see someone has knocked him off his *perch* at last. (=shown that he is not as important, clever, etc., as he thought himself to be)

perch² *v* [esp. on, upon] 1 [I+*adv/prep*] (of a bird) to come to rest, esp. on a thin, raised object such as a branch: The birds *perched* on the telephone wires. 2 [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj+adv/prep*] *infml* to (cause to) go into or be in the stated position, esp. unsafely or on something narrow or high: She *perched* (herself) on a tall stool. | a house *perched* on the edge of a cliff

perch³ *n* **perch** or **perches** a popular food fish with prickly FINS that lives in lakes and rivers

per-chance /pə'tʃɑ:ns/ *adv* **old use or lit** 1 perhaps 2 (after *if* or *lest*) by chance

per-clip-i-ent /pə'sɪpiənt/ *adj fml* quick to notice and understand; PERCEPTIVE —**ence** *n* [U]

per-co-late /'pɜ:kəleɪt/ *v* 1 [I+*adv/prep*] to pass slowly through a material that has small holes in it: The water gradually *percolated* down through the rock. | (fig.) News from the war eventually *percolated* through to us. 2 [I;T] also **perk** *infml* — a (of coffee) to be made in a special pot by the passing of hot water through crushed

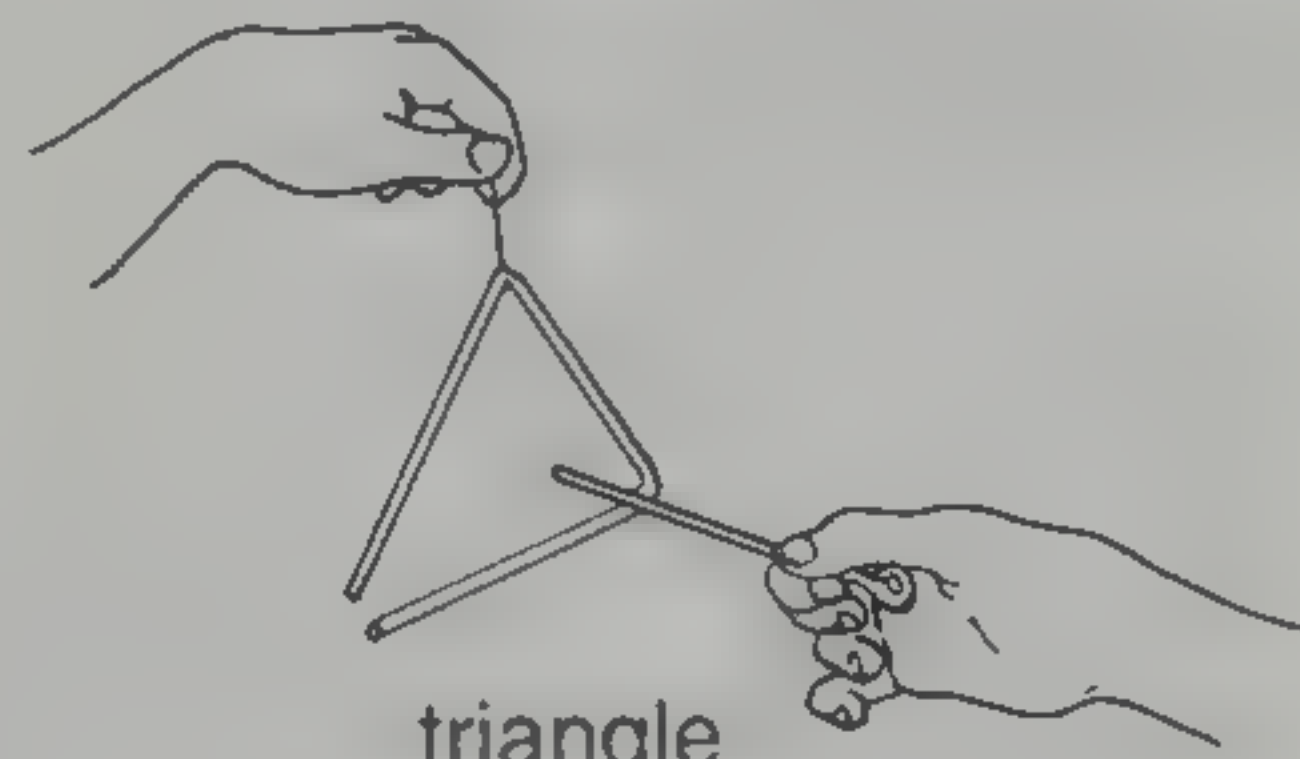
coffee beans **b** to make (coffee) by this method —**lation** /'pɜ:kə'leɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

per-co-la-tor /'pɜ:kəleɪtə/ *n* a pot in which coffee is percolated

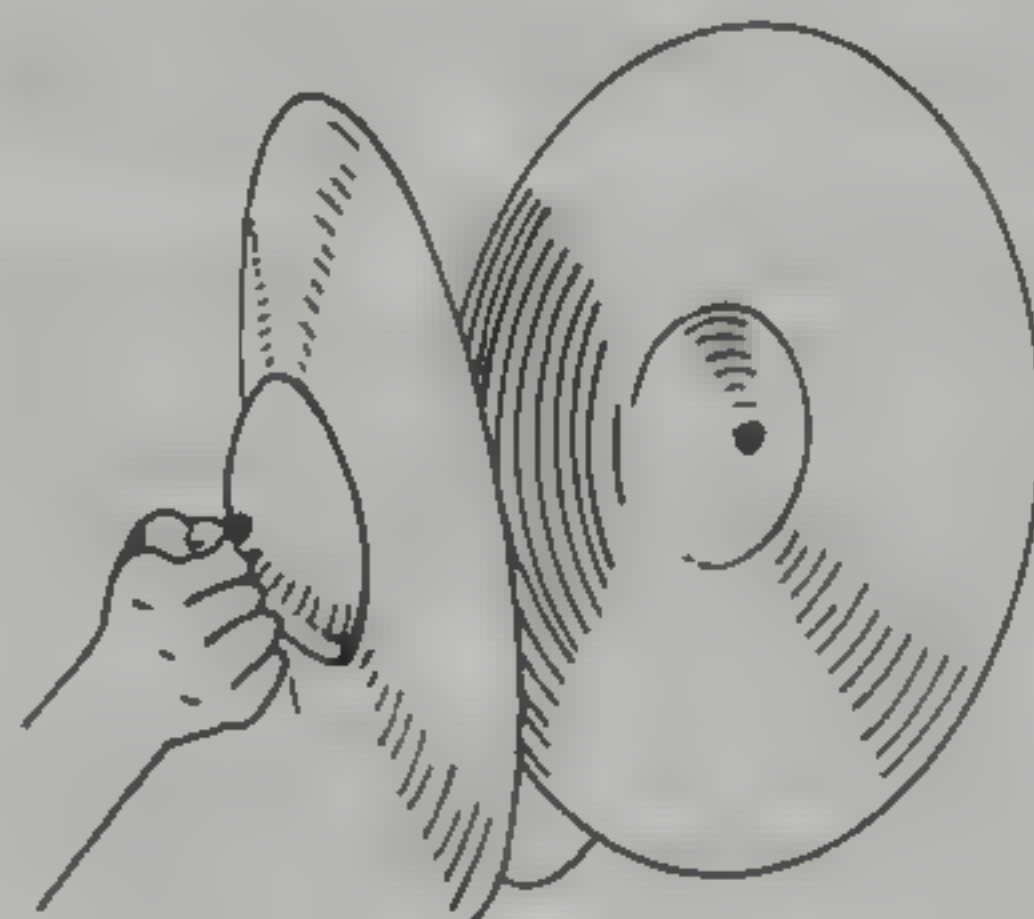
percussion instruments



tamborine



triangle



(a pair of) cymbals



drum

per-cus-sion /pə'kʌʃən/ *n* 1 [*the+S+sing./pl. v*] musical instruments that are played by being struck by the hand or by an object such as a stick or hammer, esp. as a division (**percussion section**) of a band: The drum is a *percussion instrument*. | The *percussion* is too loud. 2 [U] *tech* (the effect or sound produced by) the forceful striking together of two hard objects —**sive** /pə'kʌsɪv/ *adj*

percussion cap /'pɜ:ʃən kʌp/ *n* 1 a small container holding an explosive, used formerly in firing guns 2 *fml* for CAP¹ (7)

per-cus-sion-ist /pə'kʌʃənɪst/ *n* a person who plays percussion instruments

per di-em¹ /pə 'dizem/ *n esp. AmE* money paid by an employer to EMPLOYEES travelling on business, based on what it is thought they need for one day: What's the *per diem* rate?

per diem² *adv* every day or by the day: We are paid *per diem*.

per-di-tion /pə'dɪʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* 1 punishment that goes on forever 2 complete destruction

per-e-gri-na-tion /ˌperɪgrɪ'neɪʃən/ also **peregrinations** *pl.* — *n lit or humor* a long and wandering journey, esp. in foreign countries

per-e-grine fal-con /ˌperɪgrɪn 'fɔ:lkən/ —'fɔ:l-, -'fæl-/ also **peregrine** — *n* a hunting bird with a black and white spotted front

pe-rem-p-to-ry /pə'remptəri/ *adj fml* 1 *derog* (of a person, their manner, etc.) showing an expectation of being obeyed at once and without question; impolitely quick and unfriendly: in a *peremptory* tone of voice 2 (of a command) that must be obeyed —**rily** *adv*

pe-ren-ni-al¹ /pə'reniəl/ *adj* 1 lasting forever or for a long time; CONSTANT: a *perennial* problem/worry. 2 [*no comp.*] (of a plant) that lives for more than two years —**ly** *adv*

perennial² *n* a perennial plant: *hardy perennials* | (fig.) That joke is a **hardy perennial**! (=keeps being told)

Per-es /'peres/, **Shi-mon** /ʃɪ'mɒn/ —'məʊn/ (1923–) an Israeli Socialist politician, Prime Minister from 1984 to 1986

per-es-troi-ka /ˌperɪ'stroɪkə/ *n* [U] a Russian word meaning rebuilding; the term used to describe the economic, political, and social changes started by Mikhail Gorbachev in the USSR, including reduction of state controls on trading and making politicians more responsible for their actions —compare GLASNOST

Per-ez de Cuel-lar /ˌperes də 'kweɪjɑ:ɾ/, **Jav-i-er** /'hæviəɪ/ —'hɑ:vjeəɾ/ (1920–) a Peruvian DIPLOMAT and SECRETARY-GENERAL to the UN from 1982 to 1991

per-fect¹ /'pɜ:fɪkt/ *adj* 1 of the very best possible kind, degree, or standard: The weather was absolutely

perfect. | *a perfect wife* | *a perfect crime* (=one in which the criminal is never discovered) 2 agreeing in every way with an example accepted as correct: *His technique is almost perfect*. | *Yes, Pedro's English is excellent, but I think it's almost too perfect*. (=not showing the natural freedom shown by someone using their first language) 3 [(for)] suitable; having everything that is needed in every way: *This big house is perfect for our large family*. 4 complete and without fault; with nothing missing, spoilt, etc.: *She still has a perfect set of teeth*. 5 [A] complete; thorough; UTTER: *a perfect stranger* | *perfect nonsense* 6 [A] *tech* being the form of a verb that shows a period of time up to and including the present (**present perfect**), past (**past perfect**), or future (**future perfect**) (as in "He *has gone*", "He *had gone*", "He *will have gone*") —see also IMPERFECT, PERFECTLY

per-fect² /pə'fekt||pər-/ v [T] to make perfect: *He practised hard to perfect his technique*.

perfect³ /'pɜːfɪkt||'pɜːr-/ also **perfect tense** /ɪ.. 'ɪ./, **present perfect**— n [the+S] *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows a period of time up to and including the present, and in English is usu. formed with *have* and a past participle —see also PAST PERFECT

per-fec-ti-ble /pə'fektɪbəl||pər-/ *adj* that can be improved or made perfect —**bility** /pə'fektɪ'bɪlɪti||pər-/ n [U]

per-fec-tion /pə'fekʃən||pər-/ n [U] 1 the state of being perfect: *The meat was cooked to perfection*. (=perfectly) 2 [(of)] the process of making something perfect: *He worked hard at the perfection of his technique*. (=worked hard to make it perfect) 3 the perfect example: *His performance was sheer perfection*. (=could not have been better)

per-fec-tion-ist /pə'fekʃənɪst||pər-/ n sometimes *derog* someone who is not satisfied with anything that is not completely perfect: *It takes him hours to cook a simple meal because he's such a perfectionist*. —**perfectionist** *adj* —**-ism** n [U]

per-fect-ly /'pɜːfɪktli||'pɜːr-/ *adv* 1 in a perfect way: *She speaks French perfectly*. | *The colours match perfectly*. 2 very; completely (esp. in expressions of annoyance or disapproval): *What a perfectly ridiculous thing to say!* | *I'm perfectly capable of running my own life, thank you!* (=don't tell me how to behave)

perfect par-ti-ci-ple /ɪ.. 'ɪ..../ n PAST PARTICIPLE

perfect pitch /ɪ.. 'ɪ./ n [U] the ability to sing or play a note at exactly the right level when it is heard, or named by someone

per-fid-i-ous /pə'fɪdiəs||pər-/ *adj fml, esp. lit* disloyal; TREACHEROUS —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** n [U]

per-fi-dy /'pɜːfɪdi||'pɜːr-/ n [C;U] *fml, esp. lit* (an example of) disloyalty; TREACHERY

per-fo-rate /'pɜːfəreɪt||'pɜːr-/ v [T] 1 to make a hole or holes through (something): *They sent the dog in a perforated box so that it could breathe*. | *Her broken ribs had perforated her lung*. 2 to make a line of small holes in (paper), so that a part may be torn off: *This machine perforates the sheets of stamps*. | *perforated edges*

per-fo-ra-tion /'pɜːfə'reɪʃən||'pɜːr-/ n 1 [C often pl.] a small hole or line of holes made by perforating something: *the perforations in a sheet of stamps* 2 [U] the act of perforating or state of being perforated

per-force /pə'fɔːs||pər'fɔːrs/ *adv old use or lit* because it is necessary

per-form /pə'fɔːm||pər'fɔːrm/ v 1 [T] to do; carry out (a piece of work, duty, ceremony, etc.), esp. according to a usual or established method: *The surgeon has performed the operation*. | *to perform a miracle* 2 [I (on, at);T] to give, act, or show (a play, a part in a play, a piece of music, tricks, etc.), esp. in the presence of the public: *I've never seen "Othello" performed so brilliantly*. | *The magician performed some astonishing tricks*. | *He will be performing on the clarinet/at the piano*. | *a performing bear* 3 [I] a (of a machine) to work (in the proper or intended way): *This car performs well on hills*. **b infml** (of a person) to carry out a particular activity, esp. well and with great skill: *Our team performed very well in the match yesterday*.

per-form-ance /pə'fɔːməns||pər'fɔːr-/ n 1 [C] the action or an act of performing a (character in a) play, a piece of music, tricks, etc., esp. in the presence of the public: *His performance of/as Othello was very good*. | *The orchestra*

will give two more performances before leaving Britain. | *tickets for the evening performance* | *the band's first public performance* 2 [U] the action or manner of carrying out an activity, piece of work, etc.: *Her performance in the exams was rather disappointing*. | (*fml*) *the performance of one's official duties* 3 [U] the ability of a person or machine to do something well: *The car's performance on corners needs to be improved*. 4 [S] *infml, esp. BrE* a something that needs a lot of work, effort, or preparation: *I enjoy this dish, but it's too much of a performance to cook it often*. **b derog** an example of bad and socially unacceptable behaviour (esp. in the phrase **What a performance!**)

performance art /ɪ.. 'ɪ./ n [U] art having some theatre and something to see and/or hear e.g. a SCULPTURE of which the artist forms a part —**performance artist** n

performance pay /ɪ.. 'ɪ./ n [U] additional payment given by an employer to a worker, where the amount given depends on how successfully the worker has been

performance-re-lat-ed /ɪ.. 'ɪ.. 'ɪ../ *adj* (of wages, etc.) depending on how successfully work is done: *The salary is performance-related*. (=the greater the success, the more money will be paid) | *a performance-related amount*

per-form-er /pə'fɔːməʳ||pər'fɔːr-/ n a person who performs, esp. an actor, musician, etc.: *The audience booed some of the performers*. | *He's their star performer*.

performing arts /ɪ.. 'ɪ./ n [the + P] the arts, e.g. dance, DRAMA, and music, which are usu. performed in front of a group of people listening or watching

per-fume¹ /'pɜːfjuːm||'pɜːr-/ also **scent** *BrE*— n [C;U] 1 a sweet or pleasant smell: *the roses' heady perfume* 2 a sweet-smelling liquid, often made from flowers, for use esp. on a woman's face, wrists, and body

per-fume² /'pɜːfjuːm||pər'fjuːm/ v [T (with)] 1 *fml or poet* to fill with a sweet or pleasant smell: *a garden perfumed with flowers* 2 to put a sweet-smelling liquid on: *a perfumed handkerchief*

per-fum-er-y /pə'fjuːməri||pər-/ n [U] (the process of making) sweet-smelling liquids: *a shop's perfumery counter*

per-func-to-ry /pə'fʌŋktəri||pər-/ *adj fml* 1 (of an action) done hastily and without thought, interest, or care: *a perfunctory kiss/wave/glance* 2 (of a person) acting in this manner —**rily** *adv* —**-riness** n [U]

per-go-la /'pɜːgələ||'pɜːr-/ n an arrangement of posts built for climbing plants to grow over in a garden

per-haps /pə'hæps, præps||pər-, præps/ *adv* 1 possibly; MAYBE: *Perhaps she's in the other office*. | *This is perhaps his finest novel yet*. | "Do you think it'll rain?" "Perhaps." | "Will he come with us?" "Perhaps not." 2 (used in making polite requests): *Perhaps you would be (=Would you be) good enough to explain this for me?*

▷ **USAGE** 1 **Perhaps** is similar to **maybe**, but **maybe** is more informal. 2 **Perhaps** can be used to make suggestions or requests or to give orders in a polite manner: *Perhaps you would like to join us for lunch*. | *Perhaps you could bring me the report tomorrow*. | *You'd better go now, perhaps*. —see also MAYBE (USAGE)◀

per-i-gee /'perɪdʒiː/ n *tech* the point where the path of an object through space is closest to the Earth —compare APOGEE (1)

per-i-he-li-on /,perɪ'hɪːliən/ n *tech* the point where the path of an object through space is closest to the sun

per-il /'perɪl/ n *esp. lit* 1 [U] (great) danger, esp. of being harmed or killed: *a prayer for those in peril on the sea* 2 [C] something that causes danger: *the perils of motor racing* 3 **at one's peril** (used when advising someone not to do something) with the near certainty of meeting great danger: *You ignore this warning at your peril*.

per-il-ous /'perɪləs/ *adj esp. lit* very dangerous; risky: *a perilous journey across the mountains* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** n [U]

pe-rim-e-ter /pə'rɪmɪtəʳ/ n 1 the border round any enclosed flat space or special area of ground, esp. a camp or airfield: *The perimeter of the airfield is protected by guard-dogs*. | *a perimeter fence* 2 the length of this border: *What is the perimeter of this circle/square?* —compare CIRCUMFERENCE

pe-ri-na-tal /,perɪ'neɪtl/ *adj med* (happening) at about the time of birth: *a high rate of perinatal mortality*

pe-ri-od /'pɪəriəd/ n 1 a stretch of time with a beginning

and an end, but not always of measured length: *There were long periods when we had no news of him.* | *Tomorrow's weather will be dry with sunny periods.* | *a period of international tension* | *She was taken on for a three-month trial period before being accepted as a permanent member of staff.* **2** a particular stretch of time during the development of a person, a civilization, the Earth, an illness, etc.: *His teenage son is going through a difficult period at the moment.* | *"Which period (of history) are you studying?" "The Romans."* | *They put on a play about the French Revolution, with all the actors wearing period costume.* (=the clothes of that period) —see picture at COSTUME **3** a division of a school day; lesson: *three periods of chemistry a week* | *a double period* **4** also **menstrual period** *fml*— a monthly flow of blood from the body of a woman: *a heavy period* | *period pains* **5** *esp. AmE* a FULL STOP —see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK **b** (used at the end of a sentence to express completeness, or firmness of decision): *I'm not going, period!*

pe-ri-od-ic /ˌpɪəriˈɒdɪk/ || -'ɑː-/ also **periodical**— *adj* happening repeatedly, usu. at regular times: *periodic bouts of fever/fits of coughing* —compare SPASMODIC — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*: *She looked in on the baby periodically to check that it was all right.*

pe-ri-od-i-cal /ˌpɪəriˈɒdɪkəl/ || -'ɑː-/ *n* a magazine, esp. one of a serious kind, that comes out at regular times, such as every month

periodic ta-ble /ˌpɪərɪˈɒdɪkəl/ || -'ɑː-/ *n* [the+S] a list of simple chemical substances (ELEMENTS) arranged according to their atomic weights

period piece /'pɪərɪˈɒdɪkəl/ || -'ɑː-/ *n* **1** a fine example of a piece of furniture, work of art, etc., of a certain period in history **2** *infml, esp. humor* something very old-fashioned

per-i-pa-tet-ic /ˌpɛrɪˈpætətɪk/ || *adj fml* travelling about; going from place to place, esp. to work: *a peripatetic music teacher who works at several schools* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

per-iph-e-ral /ˌpɛrɪˈfərəl/ || *adj* rather *fml* **1** [(to)] of slight importance by comparison; not central or closely related: *matters of peripheral interest* | *peripheral to the main argument* **2** of or in a periphery: *peripheral areas* | *peripheral nerves* (=outside the CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM) —compare OUTSKIRTS — *rally* *adv*

peripheral² *n* a piece of equipment, such as a VDU or printer, which is connected to a computer to help in using the computer —compare ADD-ON

per-iph-e-ry /ˌpɛrɪˈfəri/ || *n* **1** [(of) *usu. sing.*] a line or area that surrounds or encloses something; outside edge: *a factory built on the periphery of the town* | (fig.) *people on the periphery of our movement who have less influence than they would like to think* —compare OUTSKIRTS **2** *med* the places outside the brain and the SPINAL CORD where the nerves end, e.g. in the fingers or toes

per-iph-ra-sis /ˌpɛrɪˈfræsɪs/ || *n* -ses /sɪz/ [C;U] **1** *fml* (an example of) the use of long words or phrases, or of unclear expressions, when short simple ones are all that is needed **2** *tech* (in grammar) (an example of) the use of AUXILIARY words instead of inflected (INFLECT) forms

per-i-phras-tic /ˌpɛrɪˈfræstɪk/ || *adj fml or tech* using or expressed in periphrasis — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

per-i-scope /ˌpɛrɪˈskəʊp/ || *n* a long tube with mirrors fitted in it so that people who are lower down, esp. in SUBMARINES, can see what is above them

per-ish /ˌpɛrɪʃ/ || *v* **1** [I] (esp. in writing or in newspapers) to die, esp. in a terrible or sudden way: *Hundreds perish in air crash disaster!* (=a newspaper HEADLINE) **2** [I;T] *esp. BrE* to (cause to) decay or lose natural qualities: *The chlorine in the swimming pool has perished the rubber in this swimsuit.* **3** *Perish the thought!* (said as an answer to an unwelcome suggestion) *I hope that this will not happen!*

per-ish-a-ble /ˌpɛrɪʃəbəl/ || *adj* (esp. of food) likely to decay quickly if not kept in proper conditions: *perishable goods such as butter, milk, fruit, and fish* — **perishables** *n* [P]: *a cargo of perishables*

per-ish-er /ˌpɛrɪʃə/ || *n* *infml, often humor, BrE* a troublesome person, esp. a child: *Come out of there, you little perisher!*

per-ish-ing /ˌpɛrɪʃɪŋ/ || *adj infml, esp. BrE* **1** [F (with)] also **perished**— (of a person) feeling very cold: *Let's get indoors — I'm perishing/perished (with cold).* **2** [F] (of weather) very cold: *It's really perishing this morning!* **3**

[A] *old-fash* annoying; DAMN³: *Tell those perishing kids to shut up!* — *~ly* *adv*: *perishingly cold*

per-i-style /ˌpɛrɪˈstɑɪl/ || *n* **1** a row of PILLARS round an open space next to a building, a temple, etc. **2** the space surrounded by a row of pillars

per-i-to-ne-um /ˌpɛrɪˈtəːnɪzəm/ || *n* -neums or -nea /ˈnɪzə/ || *med* the inside wall of the ABDOMEN (=the lower part of the body)

per-i-to-ni-tis /ˌpɛrɪˈtəːnɪtɪs/ || *n* [U] *med* an INFLAMMATION (=a poisoned and sore condition) of the peritoneum

per-i-wig /ˌpɛrɪˈwɪɡ/ || *n* a white wig for men, with rolls of curls at the sides, fashionable in the 18th century and now worn by male and female lawyers in British courts

per-i-win-kle¹ /ˌpɛrɪˈwɪŋkəl/ || *n* a small plant with light blue or white flowers that grows along the ground

periwinkle² *n* a WINKLE¹

per-jure /ˌpɛrɪˈdʒʊər/ || ˌpɛrɪˈdʒʊər/ || *v* **perjure oneself** to tell a lie intentionally after promising solemnly to tell the truth, esp. in a court of law

per-jur-er /ˌpɛrɪˈdʒʊərə/ || ˌpɛrɪˈdʒʊərə/ || *n* a person who perjures himself/herself

per-ju-ry /ˌpɛrɪˈdʒʊəri/ || ˌpɛrɪˈdʒʊəri/ || *n* **1** [U] the act of perjurying oneself: *to commit perjury* **2** [C] a lie told on purpose, esp. in a court of law. Perjury is an offence under British and American law.

perk¹ /pɜːk/ || pɜːrk/ || also **perquisite** *fml*— *n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml* money, goods, or an advantage that one gets regularly and legally from one's work in addition to one's pay: *With all the perks, such as free meals and a car, she's really earning over £15,000 a year.* | *"Surely you shouldn't take all that stationery home?" "Oh, it's one of the perks of the job."*

perk² *v*

perk up *phr v* [I;T (=perk sbdy. ↔ up)] *infml* to (cause to) become more cheerful, show interest, etc.: *She perked up when her boyfriend's letter arrived.* | *I need a drink to perk me up.*

perk³ *v* [I;T] *infml* for PERCOLATE (2)

perk-y /ˌpɜːki/ || ˌpɜːrki/ || *adj infml* apprec confidently cheerful; full of life and interest: *a perky little chap* — *~ily* *adv* — *~iness* *n* [U]

perm¹ /pɜːm/ || pɜːrm/ || also **permanent wave** *fml* || also **per-manent** *AmE*— *n* the putting of waves or curls into straight hair by chemical treatment so that they will last for several months

perm² *v* [T] *infml* to give a perm to: *I'm having my hair permed today.*

perm³ *v* [T (from)] *BrE infml* (in the POOLS) to pick out and combine a specific number of (the names of football teams) from a larger number, in order to get the best SCORE

per-ma-frost /ˌpɜːməˈfrɒst/ || ˌpɜːrməˈfrɒst/ || *n* [U] a thickness of soil, esp. below the Earth's surface, that is frozen all the time

per-ma-nence /ˌpɜːməˈnɛns/ || ˌpɜːr-/ || also **per-ma-nen-cy** /-nənsi/— *n* [U] the state of being permanent —opposite **im-permanence**

per-ma-nent¹ /ˌpɜːməˈnɛnt/ || ˌpɜːr-/ || *adj* lasting or intended to last for a long time or for ever: *This car wax gives permanent protection against heavy rain.* | *Is this your permanent address, or are you only staying there for a short time?* | *a permanent job* | *I think he's a permanent fixture in her life now.* (=they will be together for a long time) —compare IMPERMANENT, TEMPORARY — *~ly* *adv*: *permanently incapacitated*

permanent² *n* *AmE* for PERM¹

Permanent Sec-re-tary /ˌpɜːməˈnɛnt ˌsɛkrəˈtəri/ || ˌpɜːr-/ || also **Permanent Un-der-Secretary** /ˌpɜːməˈnɛnt ˌʌndərˈsɛkrəˈtəri/ || ˌpɜːr-/ || *n* the non-political head (the chief CIVIL SERVANT) of a British government department

permanent wave /ˌpɜːməˈnɛnt ˌweɪv/ || *n fml* a PERM¹

permanent way /ˌpɜːməˈnɛnt ˌweɪ/ || *n* *BrE* a railway track and the stones and beams on which it is laid

per-man-ga-nate /pɜːˈmæŋɡənət/ || pɜːˈmæŋɡənət/ || also **per-manganate of pot-ash** /ˌpɜːməˈnɛnt ˌmæŋɡənət ˌpɒtəˈʃ/ || ˌpɜːr-/ || *n* [U] a dark purple chemical compound used for disinfecting (DISINFECT)

per-me-a-ble /ˌpɜːmiəbəl/ || ˌpɜːr-/ || *adj fml or tech* that can be

- permeated, esp. by water —opposite **impermeable** —bility /ˌpɜːmiəˈbɪləti/ ˌpɜːr- n [U]
- per-me-ate** /ˌpɜːmiət/ ˌpɜːr- v [I+adv/prep, esp. into, through; T] to spread or pass through or into every part of (a thing, place, etc.): *Water permeated through the cracks in the wall.* | *The smell of her perfume permeated the room.* | *A feeling of sadness permeates all his music.* —ation /ˌpɜːmiˈeɪʃən/ ˌpɜːr- n [U]
- per-mis-si-ble** /pəˈmɪsɪbəl/ pər- adj fml allowed; that is permitted: *a permissible stretching of the rules* —bly adv
- per-mis-sion** /pəˈmɪʃən/ pər- n [U] an esp. formal act of allowing; written or spoken agreement; CONSENT: *With your permission (=if you allow me) I'll leave now.* [+to-v] *Did he give you permission to take that?* | *The company has applied to court for permission to renegotiate the contract.* —see also PLANNING PERMISSION; see REFUSE (USAGE)
- per-mis-sive** /pəˈmɪsɪv/ pər- adj allowing people a great deal of freedom (perhaps too much freedom), esp. in sexual matters: *My parents were permissive and let me make my own mistakes* | *We live in a permissive age.* —~ly adv —~ness n [U]
- permissive so-ci-e-ty** /ˌpɜːmɪsɪv ˈsəʊiəti/ [the] often derog society, such as in Britain and the US in the 1960s and 1970s, in which there is a lot of freedom, esp. in sexual behaviour, and many different kinds of relationships and LIFESTYLES are accepted. Some people connected the permissive society with the use of drugs for pleasure and a lack of moral standards, esp. in relation to sex.
- per-mit**¹ /pəˈmɪt/ pər- v -tt- rather fml 1 [T] to allow, esp. by a formal written or spoken agreement: [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *You are not permitted access to (=you are not allowed to see or use) the confidential files.* [+v-ing] *The rules of the club do not permit smoking.* [+obj+to-v] *Will you permit us to leave now?* | (fml) *Permit me to say how pleased I am that...* 2 [T+obj+adv/prep] to allow to be or to come: *She won't permit dogs in the house.* 3 [I] to make it possible (for a stated thing to happen): *I'll come after the meeting if time permits.* (=if it finishes early enough) | *The party will be held in the garden, weather permitting.* (=if the weather is good enough to allow it) 4 [T no pass.] also **permit of** fml— to allow as possible; admit: *The facts permit (of) no other explanation.*
- per-mit**² /ˌpɜːmɪt/ ˌpɜːrmit, pərˈmɪt/ n an official written statement giving one the right to do something: *You can't work here without a (work) permit.* | *a travel permit* | *an import/export permit*
- per-mu-ta-tion** /ˌpɜːmjʊˈteɪʃən/ ˌpɜːr- n any of the ways in which a number of things can be arranged in order: *The six possible permutations of two letters chosen from ABC are AB, BA, CB, BC, AC, and CA.* | *to try various permutations* —compare COMBINATION (4)
- per-mute** /pəˈmjuːt/ pər- v [T] tech to rearrange in a different order
- per-ni-cious** /pəˈnɪʃəs/ pər- adj fml very harmful, often in a way that is not easily noticeable; having or being an evil influence: *the pernicious effect of these horror videos on young children* | *a pernicious lie* —~ly adv —~ness n [U]
- pernicious a-nae-mi-a** /ˌpɜːnɪʃəs ˈæniə/ n [U] med ANAEMIA that will kill the sick person if it is not treated
- per-nick-e-ty** /pəˈnɪkəti/ pər- BrE || **persnickety** AmE— adj infml, often derog 1 worrying (too much) about small or unimportant things; FUSSY 2 detailed and needing a lot of attention; FIDDLY: *a persnickety job*
- Per-nod** /ˌpɜːnɒs, ˈpeə-||peərˈnɒs, pər- tdmk a clear alcoholic drink tasting of ANISEED, which turns cloudy when water etc. is added; a product of France —compare OUZU
- Pe-rón** /peˈrɒn, pə-||-ˈrəʊn/, E-va /ˈeɪvə/ (1919–52) the second wife of Juan Domingo Perón, who had a very large personal and political following. Her life story is known esp. through the show *Evita*.
- Perón, Juan Do-min-go** /wɑːn dəˈmɪŋɡəʊ||hwaːn-/ (1895–1974) an army officer who became president of Argentina in 1946. He and his wife **Eva Perón** were very popular but after she died he lost a lot of his popularity and had to leave the country in 1955. He returned and became president again in 1973.
- per-o-ra-tion** /ˌpɜːrəˈreɪʃən/ n 1 tech the last part of a speech, esp. the part in which the main points are repeated in a shorter form 2 fml derog a grand, long, but meaningless speech
- Pe-rot** /pəˈrəʊ/, **Henry Ross** (1930–) a wealthy American who entered the 1992 presidential election and enjoyed a lot of popular support, even though he was not connected with either of the main political parties. Voters thought he was more honest and direct than other politicians.
- per-ox-ide** /pəˈrɒksaɪd/ -ˈrɒk-/ also **hydrogen peroxide** tech— n [U] a chemical liquid used to take the colour out of dark hair and to kill bacteria
- peroxide blonde** /ˌpɜːrɒksaɪd ˈblɒnd/ n usu. derog a woman who has made her naturally dark hair very light yellow, by using peroxide —compare PLATINUM BLONDE
- per-pen-dic-u-lar**¹ /ˌpɜːpənˈdɪkjələ/ ˌpɜːr- adj tech 1 exactly upright; not leaning to one side or the other; VERTICAL: *a perpendicular line* | (humor) *He'd drunk so much he found it hard to remain perpendicular.* 2 [F+to] (of a line or surface) at an angle of 90 degrees to another line or surface 3 (often cap.) of the style of 14th and 15th century English buildings, esp. churches, in which there was decoration by the use of straight upright lines —~ly adv
- perpendicular**² n [C;(the).U] tech a perpendicular line or position
- per-pe-trate** /ˌpɜːpəˈtreɪt/ ˌpɜːr- v [T] fml to do (something wrong or criminal); be guilty of: *to perpetrate a crime/a fraud* | (fig., humor) *It was the managing director who perpetrated that frightful statue in the reception area.* —trator n —tration /ˌpɜːpəˈtreɪʃən/ ˌpɜːr- n [U]
- per-pet-u-al** /pəˈpetʃuəl/ pər- adj 1 often derog a continuing endlessly; uninterrupted: *the perpetual noise of the machines* b repeating or being repeated many times: *I'm tired of your perpetual complaints.* 2 lasting for ever or for a long time: *the perpetual snows of the mountaintops* —~ly adv
- perpetual mo-tion ma-chine** /ˌpɜːpəˈtʃuəl ˈməʃɪn/ n an imaginary machine that could operate on its own power without the use of outside force or FUEL. Natural laws make such a machine impossible.
- per-pet-u-ate** /pəˈpetʃueɪt/ pər- v [T] fml to make (something) continue to exist for a long time; preserve: *They put up a statue to perpetuate her memory.* (=so that she would always be remembered) | *an education system that perpetuates the divisions of our society* —ation /pəˈpetʃuˈeɪʃən/ pər- n [U]
- per-pe-tu-i-ty** /ˌpɜːpəˈtʃuːəti/ ˌpɜːr- n in perpetuity fml for ever
- per-plex** /pəˈpleks/ pər- v [T] fml to make (someone) feel confused and worried by being difficult to understand or answer: *a perplexing problem* | *He was perplexed by her contradictory behaviour.* —~edly /ˈpleksədli, ˈplekstli/ adv
- per-plex-i-ty** /pəˈpleksəti/ pər- n [U] fml the state of being perplexed
- per-qui-site** /ˌpɜːkwɪzɪt/ ˌpɜːr- n fml for PERK¹
- Per-ri-er** /ˈperɪeɪ/ n [C;U] tdmk a very well known type of MINERAL WATER which is bottled and exported (EXPORT) from Vergeze in France; Perrier is CARBONATED
- Per-rin** /ˈperɪn/, **Re-gin-ald** /ˈredʒɪnəld/ a character played by the actor Leonard Rossiter in the popular British television SITUATION COMEDY *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. He was a businessman who planned his own disappearance because of the boredom of his life.
- per-ry** /ˈperi/ n [U] esp. BrE an alcoholic drink made from PEARS
- Perry**¹, **Fred** /fred/ (1909–) an English tennis player who won the men's SINGLES title at WIMBLEDON three times and who also produces sports clothes —see also FRED PERRY
- Perry**², **William** (19 –) an American FOOTBALL player well-known because he is very large. He is sometimes called “the Refrigerator” because it is said that he can drink as many cans of beer as a REFRIGERATOR can hold.
- per se** /ˌpɜːˈseɪ||ˌpɜːrˈseɪ, ˌpɜːrˈseɪ, ˌpeərˈseɪ/ adv Lat considered alone and not in connection with other things; in, of, or by itself; as such: *It's a very beautiful piece of furniture per se, but it doesn't go with (=look good with) the rest of the room.*

per-se-cute /'pɜːsɪkjʊt||'pɜːr-/ v [T] **1** to treat cruelly and cause to suffer, esp. for religious or political beliefs: *The Romans persecuted the Christians.* **2** to try to harm (someone) by continually annoying them or causing trouble for them; HARASS: *People who think they're always being persecuted may be suffering from a mental illness.* —**cutor** *n* —**cution** /,pɜːsɪ'kjuːʃən||,pɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] : *the persecution of the Jews* | *a persecution complex* (=feeling that people are always persecuting you)

Per-se-phone /pɜː'sefəni||pɜːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the daughter of Zeus and Demeter who was taken to the UNDERWORLD by Pluto and made queen there. Zeus finally allowed her to return, but only for six months a year, beginning in the spring. She represents death and rebirth, the yearly cycle of summer and winter (Roman name Proserpine).

Per-se-us /'pɜːsiəs||'pɜːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the man who killed Medusa, who could turn people to stone by looking at them. Perseus used his shield as a mirror and cut off her head without looking at her directly

per-se-ver-ance /,pɜːsɪ'vɪərəns||,pɜːr-/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* continual steady effort made to fulfil some aim: *He's slow to learn, but shows great perseverance.*

per-se-vere /,pɜːsɪ'vɪər||,pɜːr-/ v [I (at, in, with)] *usu. apprec* to continue steadily and with determination in spite of difficulties: *If you persevere (with the work), you'll succeed in the end.* | *a persevering student* —compare **PERSIST**

Pershing mis-sile /,pɜːʃɪŋ 'mɪsaɪl||,pɜːrʃɪŋ 'mɪsəl/ *n* a nuclear BALLISTIC MISSILE (=flying bomb) developed by the US and used in W Europe

Per-sia /'pɜːʃə, -zə||'pɜːrʃə/ the former name of IRAN

Per-sian¹ /'pɜːʃən, -zən||'pɜːrʃən/ *adj* of the people, language, art, etc. of Persia (now called Iran): *a Persian carpet*

Persian² *n* also **Farsi**— [U] the language spoken in Iran

Persian cat /,.. '·/ *n* a kind of cat with long silky hair

Persian Gulf [the] GULF

per-si-flage /'pɜːsɪflɑːʒ||'pɜːr-/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* light amusing talk, esp. concerned with laughing at the small weaknesses of others

Per-sil /'pɜːsɪl||'pɜːr-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a powder or liquid for washing clothes

Persil-white /,.. '··/ *adj BrE infml* (of clothes) extremely white and clean (from the advertisement for Persil washing powder, which says that "Persil washes whiter")

per-sim-mon /pə'sɪmən||pər-/ *n* an orange-coloured soft fruit

per-sist /pə'sɪst||pər-/ v [I] **1** [(in, with)] to continue in a course of action or way of behaving, firmly and perhaps unreasonably, in spite of opposition or warning: *If you persist in causing trouble, the company may be forced to dismiss you.* | *Must you persist in misunderstanding me?* (=you seem to be intentionally trying not to understand me) **2** to continue to exist: *The bad weather will persist all over the country.* | *Despite official denials, the rumours persisted.* —compare **PERSEVERE**

per-sis-tent /pə'sɪstənt||pər-/ *adj often derog* **1** continuing in a course of action or way of behaving, esp. in spite of opposition or warning: *his persistent attempts to annoy me* | *I kept telling him I wasn't interested in his offer, but he was most persistent.* | *a persistent offender* **2** continuing to exist, happen, or appear for a long time, esp. for longer than is usual or desirable: *a persistent cough* | *persistent rumours* —compare **INSISTENT** — ~ *ly adv* —**tence** *n* [U]

per-snick-e-ty /pə'snɪkəti||pər-/ *adj AmE* for **PERNICKETY**

per-son /'pɜːsən||'pɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C] (*pl. people*) a human being considered as having a character of his or her own, or as being different from all others: *I like her as a person, but not as a secretary.* | *Would you call a week-old baby a person?* | *You're just the person I wanted to see.* | *She's a difficult person to deal with.* | *Our new neighbours seem nice people.* **2** [C] *esp. fml or law (pl. persons)* someone unknown or not named: *Any person wishing to lodge a complaint should contact the manager in writing.* | *The police have a department dealing with missing persons.* | *murder by a person or persons unknown* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] (*pl. persons*) *fml* someone's body or outward appearance, sometimes including their clothes: *I think he had a gun concealed about his person.* **4** [C;U] (*pl. persons*)

tech (in grammar) any of the three special forms of verbs or PRONOUNS that show the speaker (**first person**), the one who is being spoken to (**second person**), or the one that is being spoken about (**third person**): *The third person singular of the verb "go" is "goes".* | *"I", "me", and "we" are all first person pronouns.* **5** in *person* personally; oneself: *I can't attend the meeting in person, but I'm sending someone to speak for me.* **6** in *the person* of *fml* namely; he or she is: *The club has a faithful supporter in the person of Jim Brown.* **7** -*person* someone who does the stated thing or has the stated job: *These days it is fashionable to say "spokesperson" rather than "spokesman" or "spokeswoman".* | *a chairperson* | *a salesperson* —see also **PERSON-TO-PERSON**

▷ **USAGE 1** The usual plural of **person** is **people**: *Only one person/A lot of people replied to our advert.* **Persons** is formal, and is often used in official writings, notices, etc.: *He was murdered by a person or persons unknown.* **2** Many people, especially women, do not like the use of words such as **chairman** or **spokesman** to refer to both sexes. They also dislike the use of these words to refer to women. They prefer to use words which can refer to both men and women: *She/he is our new chairperson.* | *She/he agreed to act as spokesperson.* ◁

per-so-na /pə'səʊnə||pər-/ *n* (in **PSYCHOLOGY**) the outward character a person takes on in order to persuade other people that he or she is a particular type of person —see also **PERSONA NON GRATA**

per-son-a-ble /'pɜːsənəbəl||'pɜːr-/ *adj* attractive in appearance or character: *a personable young man* —**bly adv**

per-son-age /'pɜːsənɪdʒ||'pɜːr-/ *n fml or pomp* **1** a famous or important person **2** a character in a play or book, or in history

per-son-al¹ /'pɜːsənəl||'pɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] concerning, belonging to, or for the use of a particular person; private: *the President's personal bodyguard* | *a letter marked "Personal"* | *I'd like to speak to Mr Davis about a personal matter.* | *If you want my personal opinion, I think it's a load of rubbish.* | *On his release the police returned all his personal effects.* (=small articles belonging to him) | *It was a simple recipe, but he had added one or two personal touches to make the meal more interesting.* **2** [no comp.] done or made directly by a particular person, not by a representative: *The manager will give you his personal attention, Madam.* | *He made a personal appeal to the kidnappers to return his child.* | *I have a personal stake in his success.* **3** *derog* (making remarks) directed against (the appearance or character of) a particular person; rude: *Don't be so personal!* | *They made some highly personal remarks about the size of his nose.* **4** [A no comp.] *fml* of the body or appearance: *Personal hygiene is important for health.* —compare **IMPERSONAL**; see also **PERSONALLY**

personal² *n AmE* a short personal advertisement placed in a newspaper or magazine by someone who wishes to find a friend or lover —see **PERSONAL COLUMN**

personal al-low-ance /,... '··/ *BrE*||**exemption AmE**— *n* *BrE* the income below a set limit on which one does not pay **INCOME TAX**. It is different for e.g. a married or single person.

personal as-sis-tant /,... '··/ *n* see **PA**¹

personal col-umn /'... ,.../ *n* a part of a newspaper that gives or asks for messages, information, etc., about particular people. People can also advertise in the personal column to find a person to start a relationship with: *to put an ad in the personal column*

personal com-pu-ter /,... '··/ *abbrev. PC n* a small computer for use by one person at a time in business or in the home, used for **WORD PROCESSING**, business accounts, or **COMPUTER GAMES** —see picture of **COMPUTER**

personal eq-ui-ty plan /,... '·· ,.../ *n* see **PEP**

personal es-tate /,... '··/ *n* [U] *law* **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

personal hy-giene /,... '··/ *n* [U] *fml* keeping one's own body clean: *Personal hygiene is important for good health.*

personal i-den-ti-fi-ca-tion num-ber /,...'·· ,.../ *n* see **PIN**

per-son-al-i-ties /,pɜːsə'nælɪtiz||,pɜːr-/ *n* [P] *BrE* unkind or rude remarks directed against someone's appearance, character, etc.: *Let's keep personalities out of the conversation, shall we?*

per-son-al-i-ty /,pɜːsəˈnælɪti/, /pɜːr-/ *n* 1 [C;U] the whole nature or character of a particular person: *He has a strong/dynamic/weak personality.* | *The drug changed her whole personality.* —compare CHARACTER (1) 2 [C;U] (a person with) forceful, lively, and usu. attractive qualities of character: *She has a lot of/She is quite a personality.* 3 [C] a person who is well known to the public or to people connected with some particular activity: *a television personality*

personality cult /-ˈ...-/ *n* usu. derog the officially encouraged practice of giving too great admiration, praise, love, etc., to a particular person, esp. a political leader: *a personality cult surrounding the Prime Minister*

per-son-al-ize also -ise *BrE* /ˈpɜːsənəlaɪz/, /pɜːr-/ *v* [T] 1 to make personal, esp. by adding one's address or (the first letters of) one's name: *personalized handkerchiefs/stationery* 2 often derog to change so as to be concerned with personal matters or relationships rather than with facts: *Let's not personalize this argument.* —ization /,pɜːsənəlaɪˈzeɪʃən/, /pɜːrsənələ-/ *n* [U]

per-son-al-ly /ˈpɜːsənəli/, /pɜːr-/ *adv* 1 directly and not through someone acting for one: *The director is personally in charge of all the arrangements.* 2 speaking for oneself only; to give one's own opinion: *She said she didn't like it, but personally I thought it was very good.* 3 as a person; with regard to personal qualities: *She may be personally very charming, but will she be a good secretary?* 4 derog as directed against oneself in a PERSONAL¹ (3) way: *You mustn't take her criticisms of your plan personally.* 5 privately: *May I speak to you personally about this problem, sir?*

personal or-ga-ni-zer /,...-ˈ...-/ *n* a small RING BINDER holding sheets of specially shaped paper for information, addresses, a DIARY, etc. —compare FILOFAX

personal pen-sion plan /,...-ˈ...-/ *n* a PENSION PLAN which is a private agreement between a person and an insurance company, rather than with the government or an employer

personal pro-noun /,...-ˈ...-/ *n* tech (in grammar) a PRONOUN used for the one who is being spoken to, or the one that is being spoken about: *"I", "you", and "they" are personal pronouns.* —see also PERSON (4)

personal prop-er-ty /,...-ˈ...-/ also **personal estate**—*n* [U] law all the things owned by a person except land and buildings —compare REAL ESTATE (1)

personal ster-e-o /,...-ˈ...-/ also **walkman** *tdmk*—*n* a small CASSETTE PLAYER and/or radio which is carried and listened to through small speakers that fit in or over the ears

persona non gra-ta /pəˈsəʊnə nɒn ˈgrætə/, /pərˈsəʊnə nɑːn ˈgrætə/ *n* [U] *Lat* a person who is not acceptable or welcome, esp. in someone's house or to a government: *He was declared persona non grata and thrown out of the country.*

per-son-i-fi-ca-tion /pəˈsɒnɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/, /pərˈsɑː-/ *n* 1 [C (of)] a person or thing considered as a perfect example of some quality, either good or bad: *the personification of evil* —compare INCARNATION (3) 2 [C;U] (an act of) personifying something that is without life

per-son-i-fy /pəˈsɒnɪfaɪ/, /pərˈsɑː-/ *v* [T] 1 to be a (perfect) example of; be the living form of (some quality): *He is evil/patience personified.* 2 to think of or represent (something that is without life) as a human being or as having human qualities: *A ship is often personified as "she".*

per-son-nel /,pɜːsəˈnel/, /pɜːr-/ *n* 1 [P] all the people employed by a company, in the armed forces, or working in any organization: *army personnel* | *The company's main problem is the shortage of skilled personnel.* | *She is studying personnel management.* 2 [U+sing./pl. v] the department in an organization that deals with (the complaints and difficulties of) these people: *She works in personnel.* | *Personnel has/have lost my tax forms.* | *Speak to the personnel officer about it.*

person-to-person /,...-ˈ...-/ *adj* esp. *AmE* (of a telephone call) made to one person in particular, and not needing to be paid for if they are not there and someone else answers

per-spec-tive /pəˈspektɪv/, /pər-/ *n* 1 [U] (the rules governing) the art of drawing solid objects on a flat surface so that they give a natural effect of depth, distance, and so-

lidity: *The picture looks strange because it has no perspective.* | *In those days artists didn't understand perspective.* | *The objects in the background are in/out of perspective.* 2 [C;U (on)] the way in which a situation or problem is judged, so that (proper) consideration and importance is given to each part: *We must get/keep the problem in perspective; it's not really that serious.* | *The company's results need to be looked at in perspective/in their proper perspective; our profits have fallen but it's been a difficult year for our competitors, too.* | *The new evidence put an entirely different perspective on the case.* | *a historical perspective* 3 [C (of)] a view, esp. one stretching far into the distance

per-spex /ˈpɜːspeks/, /pɜːr-/ *BrE* *tdmk* || **plexiglass** *tdmk* *AmE*—*n* [U] (sometimes cap.) a strong plastic material that can be seen through and is used instead of glass

per-spi-ca-cious /,pɜːspiˈkeɪʃəs-/, /pɜːr-/ *adj* *fml* having or showing very clever judgment and understanding: *a perspicacious comment* —~ly *adv* —city /ˈkæsjəti/ *n* [U]

per-spi-ra-tion /,pɜːspəˈreɪʃən/, /pɜːr-/ *n* [U] *euph* or *tech* SWEAT² (1) or the act of sweating (SWEAT¹ (1))

per-spire /pəˈspaɪə/, /pər-/ *v* [I] *euph* or *tech* for SWEAT¹ (1)

per-suade /pəˈsweɪd/, /pər-/ *v* [T] 1 [(into, out of)] to make (someone) willing to do something by reasoning, arguing, repeatedly asking, etc.: *Despite all my efforts to persuade him, he wouldn't agree.* | *He persuaded her into/out of going (=to go/not to go) to the party.* [+obj+to-v] *Try to persuade them to come with us.* | (fig.) *I persuaded the piece of wood (=made it go gradually) into the little crack.* 2 [(of)] rather *fml* to cause to believe or feel certain; CONVINCE: *She was not persuaded of the truth of his statement.* [+obj+(that)] *He was unable to persuade the police that he had been elsewhere at the time of the crime.* —suadable *adj*

per-sua-sion /pəˈsweɪʒən/, /pər-/ *n* 1 [U] the act or skill of persuading: *In spite of my efforts at persuasion, he wouldn't agree.* | *She used all her powers of persuasion on them.* 2 [C] *fml* or *humor* a particular belief: *people of many different political persuasions* 3 [C usu. sing.] *fml* or *derog* the stated kind or sort: *an artist of the modern persuasion* 4 [S] *fml* a strongly held belief or opinion: [+that] *It is my persuasion that such people should not be allowed to enter this country.*

per-sua-sive /pəˈsweɪsɪv/, /pər-/ *adj* having the power to influence others into believing or doing what one wishes: *a persuasive talker* | *very persuasive arguments* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

pert /pɜːt/, /pɜːr-/ *adj* 1 (esp. of a girl or young woman) slightly disrespectful in a rather amusing way; SAUCY: *a pert young miss* 2 neat and stylish in a cheerful way: *She wore a pert little hat.* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

per-tain /pəˈteɪn/, /pər-/ *v*

pertain to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to have a connection with; concern: *Any inquiries pertaining to the granting of planning permission should be addressed to the Town Hall.*

Perth /pɜːθ/, /pɜːrθ/ 1 a city in SW Australia, capital of the state of Western Australia 2 a city in central Scotland on the river Tay

Perth-shire /ˈpɜːθə/, /ˈpɜːrθ-/ a former COUNTY in central Scotland, now part of Tayside REGION

per-ti-na-cious /,pɜːtɪˈneɪʃəs/, /pɜːr-/ *adj* *fml* holding to an opinion, course of action, etc., in a very determined way; STUBBORN —~ly *adv* —city /ˈnæsjəti/ *n* [U]

per-ti-nent /ˈpɜːtɪnənt/, /ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* [(to)] *fml* connected directly with something that is being considered; RELEVANT: *She asked several highly pertinent questions.* | *Your remarks are not pertinent to our discussion.* —opposite **ir-relevant**; see also IMPERTINENT —~ly *adv* —~nence *n* [U]

per-turb /pəˈtɜːb/, /pərˈtɜːrb/ *v* [T] *fml* to cause to worry greatly; DISTURB: *I am deeply perturbed by the alarming way the situation is developing.* —turbation /,pɜːtəˈbeɪʃən/, /pɜːrtər-/ *n* [U]

Pe-ru /pəˈruː/ a country in W South America bordering the Pacific Ocean; capital Lima; population 21,792,000 (1989). People connect Peru with the Incas and often think of it as a REMOTE and mysterious place: *darkest Peru*

pe-ruse /pəˈruːz/, /pər-/ *v* [T] 1 *fml* to read through carefully 2 often *humor* to read: *After breakfast he perused the newspapers.* —rusal *n* [C;U]

Pe·ru·vi·an /pə'ru:vɪən/ *adj, n* (a person who comes or whose parents come) from Peru

per·vade /pə'veɪd||pər-/ *v* [T] *fml* or *lit* (of smells and of ideas, feelings, etc.) to spread through every part of: *The smell of cooking pervaded the house.* | *A spirit of hopelessness pervaded the country.*

per·va·sive /pə'veɪsɪv||pər-/ *adj* tending to pervade; widespread: *the pervasive influence of television* | *pervasive doubts* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

per·verse /pə'vɜ:s||pər'vɜ:rs/ *adj* **1** (of a person, behaviour, etc.) purposely continuing to do, believe in, etc. something that one knows to be wrong, unreasonable, or unacceptable: *She gets a perverse satisfaction from making other people embarrassed.* **2** (of a person or event) unreasonably opposed to the wishes of (other) people; awkward and annoying: *We all wanted to go tomorrow, but she had to be perverse and insisted on going today.* — *~ly adv*: *Perversely, it started to rain just as the match was due to start.*

per·ver·sion /pə'vɜ:sjən, -ʒən||pər'vɜ:rʒən/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a perverted or twisted form of what is true, reasonable, etc.: *a newspaper story full of perversions of the truth* **2** [C] a form of sexual behaviour that is (considered) unnatural **3** [U] the action of perverting or the state of being perverted

per·ver·si·ty /pə'vɜ:sɪtɪ||pər'vɜ:r-/ *n* **1** [U] also **per·verse·ness** /pə'vɜ:snəs||pər'vɜ:r-/ the quality or state of being perverse: *the perversity of the British weather* **2** [C] a perverse act

per·vert /pə'vɜ:t||pər'vɜ:rt/ *v* [T] **1** to lead into ways of thinking or forms of behaviour (esp. sexual behaviour) that are considered wrong or unnatural; DEPRAVE: *All this violence on TV is perverting the minds of our young children.* | *perverted sexual practices* **2** to use for a bad purpose: *Scientific knowledge was perverted to help cause destruction and war.* | *To pervert the course of justice is to try to prevent justice being done.* **3** to change or twist (the meaning of words)

per·vert² /'pɜ:vɜ:t||'pɜ:rɜ:rt/ *n* *derog* a person whose sexual behaviour is not (considered) natural

pe·se·ta /pə'seɪtə/ *n* a Spanish coin, on which the Spanish money system is based

pes·ky /'peski/ *adj* [A] *infml*, esp. *AmE* annoying and causing trouble

pe·so /'peɪsəʊ/ *n* **pesos** a small coin on which the money systems of many Spanish American countries are based

pes·sa·ry /'pesəri/ *n* **1** a medicine in solid form put into the female sex organ (VAGINA) —compare SUPPOSITORY **2** an instrument put into the VAGINA to support the WOMB or as a means of birth control

pes·si·mis·m /'pesɪmɪzəm/ *n* [U] a tendency to give more attention to the bad side of a situation or to expect the worst possible result —opposite **optimism**

pes·si·mist /'pesɪmɪst/ *n* a person who thinks that whatever happens will be bad: *Don't be such a pessimist — I'm sure you'll pass.* —opposite **optimist** — *~ic* /'pesɪ'mɪstɪk/ *adj*: *The experts are pessimistic about our chances of success.* — *~ically* /kli/ *adv*

pest /pest/ *n* **1** a usu. small animal or insect that harms or destroys food supplies: *Rabbits are great pests to farmers.* | *garden pests* | *pest control* **2** *infml* an annoying person or thing: *That child's a real pest; he's continually asking questions.*

pes·ter /'pestə/ *v* [T (for, with)] *infml* to annoy (someone) continually, esp. with demands: *The beggars pestered the tourists for money.* [+obj+to-v] *My daughter has been pestering me to take her with me.*

pes·ti·cide /'pestɪsaɪd/ *n* [C;U] a chemical substance used to kill PESTS (1)

pes·ti·lence /'pestɪləns/ *n* [C;U] esp. *old use* a disease that causes death and spreads quickly to large numbers of people, esp. BUBONIC PLAGUE

pes·ti·lent /'pestɪlənt/ also **pes·ti·len·tial** /'pestɪ'lenʃəl/ — *adj* **1** esp. *old use* of or causing pestilence **2** often *humor* continually annoying and unpleasant

pes·tle /'pesəl, 'pestl/ *n* an instrument with a heavy rounded end, used for crushing substances in a special bowl (MORTAR) —see picture at LABORATORY

pet¹ /pet/ *n* **1** an animal kept in the home as a compan-

ion. Pets are much loved in Britain and the US and treated as members of the family: *Have you got any pets?* | *He keeps a monkey as a pet.* | *a pet dog/rabbit* | *pet food* **2** often *derog* a person, esp. a child, or thing given special and perhaps unfairly favourable treatment: *She is the teacher's pet.* | *his pet theory* **3** [usu. sing.] a person who is specially loved or lovable: *Come here, (my) pet!* —see also PET NAME

pet² *v* -tt- **1** [T] to touch kindly with the hands, showing love: *She petted the little dog.* **2** [I;T] *infml* to kiss and touch (someone else or each other) in sexual play —see also HEAVY PETTING

pet³ *n* *old-fash* a sudden show of childish bad temper and impatience, esp. about something unimportant: *It's nothing to get in a pet about.* —see also PETTISH

Pé·tain /pe'tæn/, **Marshal Hen·ri** /'ɒnrɪ||ɑ:n'ri:/ (1856–1951) a French soldier who fought for France in the First World War and was made Prime Minister in 1940. He became head of the Vichy government which collaborated (COLLABORATE (2)) with the Nazis. After the war he was imprisoned for TREASON. —see also VICHY

pet·al /'petl/ *n* **1** any of the usu. coloured leaf like divisions of a flower: *rose petals* **2** -petalled also -petaled *AmE* /'petld/ having petals of the stated number or kind —see picture at FLOWER

pe·tard /pɪ'tɑ:d||-ɑ:rd/ *n* see **hoist with one's own petard** (HOIST)

pet·er¹ /'pɪtə/ *v*

peter out *phr v* [I] to come gradually to an end: *Interest in the project has petered out.* | *The road became narrower and rougher and eventually petered out.*

peter² *n* see **BLUE PETER**

Peter¹ **robbing Peter to pay Paul** to borrow money in order to pay someone else, or use money meant for one purpose for some other purpose: *To increase funding for universities at the expense of primary education is simply robbing Peter to pay Paul.*

Peter², **Simon** see **SAINT PETER**

Peter Dom·i·nic /'pɪtə 'dɒmɪnɪk||-tər 'dɑ:z/ one of a group of British shops selling wines, beer, and spirits

Peter Jones /'... '.../ a large department store in Sloane Square, central London

Peter Pan /'... '.../ **1** the main character in a story by J M Barrie, a young boy who never grows up but lives in a magic land called **Never-Never Land**. In the story, three children, Michael, John, and Wendy, go with Peter Pan and the FAIRY, Tinkerbell to stay in the Never Never Land, where they have many adventures. Peter Pan's enemy in the story is Captain Hook, an evil PIRATE who has a metal hook in the place of one of his hands. Captain Hook lost his hand in a fight with Peter Pan, and Peter Pan threw the hand into some water. It was eaten by a crocodile, who liked the taste so much that it then followed Captain Hook around trying to catch and eat the rest of him. —see colour picture on page 619 **2** a man whose body or attitudes never seem to change as the years pass; a man who never seems to grow up: *the Peter Pan of the music business*

Peter Pan col·lar /'... '.../ *n* a type of usu. small collar with rounded ends, used esp. on women's clothes

Peter Pan collar



Peter, Paul, and Ma·ry /'... '... '.../ a group of American popular music singers who were popular esp. in the 1960s and 1970s

Peter prin·ci·ple /'... '.../ *n* [S] *infml*, often *humor* the idea that each person in an organization is given higher rank with more responsibility until they reach their level of **incompetence** (=the level at which they cannot do the job properly). They then stay at this level, having a bad effect on the organization as a whole (from the name of its inventor, American educator Laurence Peter).

Peter Rab·bit /'... '.../ a character in children's stories by Beatrix Potter, a young rabbit who behaved badly but was still lovable

Pe·ter·son /'pɪtəsən||-tər-/ **Oscar** (1925–) a Canadian JAZZ piano player, famous for his original and inventive music

- Peter's pence** /ˌpiːtə ˈpɛns/ [S] 1 a one-penny tax paid in England until 1534 for the Pope 2 money freely given by Catholics in some countries to pay for the running of the Vatican
- Peter the Great** /ˌpiːtə ˈθə ˈfɜːst/ also **Peter I** /ˌpiːtə ˈθə ˈfɜːst/ || -tər ˈθə ˈfɜːrst/ (1672–1725) the TSAR (=ruler) of Russia from 1682–1725
- pet food** /ˈpiːt fʊd/ *n* food prepared specially for pets, esp. cats and dogs, and usu. preserved in tins
- pet hate** /ˌpiːt ˈheɪt/ *n* BrE || also **pet peeve** esp. AmE *infml*—something that one finds particularly annoying, even when others do not find it so: *Small dogs are my pet peeve.* | *My pet hate is those stupid car horns that play a tune.*
- pet-it bour-geois** /ˌpeti ˈbʊəʒwaːz, -bʊəˈʒwaːz/ || peti bʊə-ˈʒwaːz, pəˈtiːz/ also **petty bourgeois**—*n, adj* Fr 1 (a person, such as a small shopkeeper or skilled worker) of the lower middle class 2 BOURGEOIS¹ (2),²
- pe-tite** /pəˈtiːt/ *adj* *apprec* (of a woman or girl) having a small and neat figure: *a petite blonde*
- petit four** /ˌpeti ˈfʊər, -ˈfɔːr/ *n* Fr a kind of small sweet cake or BISCUIT served with coffee, esp. at the end of a meal
- pe-ti-tion**¹ /pəˈtiːʃən/ *n* 1 [(for, against)] (a piece or pieces of paper containing) a request or demand made to a government or other body, usu. signed by many people: *Will you sign our petition against using animals in scientific experiments?* | *to get up (=arrange) a petition* 2 an official letter to a court of law, asking for consideration of one's case 3 *fml* a solemn prayer or request to God, a ruler, etc.
- petition**² *v* [I;T (for, against)] to make or send a petition or official request: *We're petitioning for a new playground for the village children.* [+to-v] *The people petitioned to be allowed to return to their island.* [+obj+to-v] *They petitioned the government to reconsider its decision.*
- pe-ti-tion-er** /pəˈtiːʃənər/ *n* 1 someone who makes or signs a petition 2 *law* someone asking for their marriage to be legally ended
- petit mal** /ˌpeti ˈmæl/ *n* [U] Fr a slight form of the disease of EPILEPSY—compare GRAND MAL
- petit pain** /ˌpeti ˈpæn/ *n* **petits pains**, (same pronunciation) Fr a small rich loaf for one person, often eaten warm with coffee at breakfast, esp. in France
- pet name** /ˌpiːt ˈneɪm/ *n* a name given to someone whom one specially likes or loves, used instead of that person's real name
- Pet-o In-sti-tute** /ˈpetəʊ ˌɪnstɪtjuːt/ || -tʊt/ an institution in Budapest, Hungary, set up by Dr Andras Peto in 1945, which teaches children who cannot control their bodies properly to lead more independent lives by means of CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION
- pet peeve** /ˌpiːt ˈpiːv/ *n* see PET HATE
- Pet-ra** /ˈpetrə/ the ruins of an ancient civilization in Jordan, where houses are cut into rock
- pet-rel** /ˈpetrəl/ *n* a black and white seabird—see also STORMY PETREL
- Petrified Forest** /ˌpetrɪfɪd ˈfɒrɪst/ [the] a large national park in E Arizona, US, where the rock surfaces show FOSSILS of very old trees
- pet-ri-fy** /ˈpetrɪfaɪ/ *v* 1 [T] to put (someone) into a state of extreme shock or fear so that they are unable to think or take action: *He sat there petrified as the ghost glided across the room.* | (fig.) *My new boss absolutely petrifies me!*—see FRIGHTENED (USAGE) 2 [I;T] to turn into stone: *petrified wood*—**faction** /ˌpetrɪfæksən/ *n* [U] *fml*
- pet-ro-chem-i-cal** /ˌpetrəʊˈkemɪkəl/ *n* a chemical substance obtained from PETROLEUM or natural gas: *the petrochemical industry* | *a petrochemical plant (=factory)*
- pet-ro-dol-lar** /ˌpetrəʊˈdɒlə/ || -dɔːl/ *n* *tech* an American dollar earned by the sale of oil, esp. by the oil-producing countries of the Middle East
- Pet-ro-grad** /ˈpetrəgræd/ the modern Russian name for St Petersburg, also used from 1914–24
- pet-rol** /ˈpetrəl/ BrE || **gas, gasoline** AmE—*n* [U] a liquid obtained esp. from petroleum, used mainly for producing power in the engines of cars, aircraft, etc.: *We filled (the car) up with petrol before the long journey.* | *Six gallons/litres of petrol, please.* | *the petrol tank* | *petrol fumes* | *a petrol pump* | *two star/four star petrol* (=the number of stars showing the quality of the petrol)—see picture at PUMP
- petrol bomb** /ˌpetrəl ˈbɒm/ *n* a type of bomb made by putting petrol inside a container, e.g. a bottle, attaching a piece of cloth, and lighting the cloth. Petrol bombs are thrown usu. by TERRORISTS or people involved in RIOTS.
- pe-tro-le-um** /pəˈtrɒliəm/ *n* [U] a mineral oil obtained from below the surface of the Earth, and used to produce petrol, PARAFFIN, and various chemical substances: *petroleum-based products*
- petroleum jel-ly** /ˌpetrəlˈeɪtəm/ || also **Vaseline** *tdmk* || also **pet-ro-la-tum** /ˌpetrəˈleɪtəm/ AmE—*n* [U] a thick GREASE (2) substance made from petroleum, used esp. on cut or broken skin
- pe-trol-o-gy** /pəˈtrɒlədʒi/ || -ˈtræz-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of rocks—**gist** *n*
- petrol sta-tion** /ˌpetrəl ˈsteɪʃən/ BrE || **filling station, gas station** AmE—*n* a place where you take your car and fill it with petrol. Most petrol stations also sell oil and small SPARE PARTS, and other goods such as cigarettes and sweets. Some will also do simple repairs.
- Pet Shop Boys** /ˌpet ʃɒp ɒɪz/ The two British popular singers popular among young people in the 1980s and 1990s. They are known esp. for their electronic music and their flat, unemotional style.
- pet-ti-coat** /ˈpetɪkəʊt/ || also **slip** BrE *old-fash* || **slip** AmE—*n* a woman's undergarment which hangs from the shoulders or waist
- Petticoat Lane** /ˌpetɪkəʊt ˈleɪn/ a street in the East End of London, officially called Middlesex Street, where a market is held every week on Sunday morning
- pet-ti-fog-ging** /ˌpetɪˈfɒɡɪŋ/ || -ˈfɑː-, -ˈfɔː-/ *adj* BrE *derog* 1 needlessly concerned with small unimportant details: *I'm sick to death of those pettifogging bureaucrats!* 2 too small to be worth considering
- pet-tish** /ˈpetɪʃ/ *adj* *derog* impatiently angry; showing childish bad temper, esp. over something unimportant—see also PET³—**~ly** *adv*—**~ness** *n* [U]
- petty** /ˈpeti/ *adj* 1 of (relatively) little importance; on a small scale: *Our problems seem petty when compared to those of people who never get enough to eat.* | *petty crime* 2 *derog* having or showing a mind that is limited, narrow, and ungenerous; SMALL-MINDED: *petty spite* | *Don't be so petty/petty-minded.*—**tily** *adv*—**~tiness** *n* [U]
- petty bour-geois** /ˌpeti ˈbʊəʒwaːz/ *n, adj* (a) PETIT BOURGEOIS
- petty cash** /ˌpeti ˈkæʃ/ *n* [(the) U] an amount of money kept ready in an office for making small payments
- petty lar-ce-ny** /ˌpeti ˈlɑːrənɪ/ *n* [C;U] *law* the stealing of articles of a value below a certain amount
- petty of-fi-cer** /ˌpeti ˈɒfɪsər/ *n* a naval rank—see TABLE 3
- pet-u-lant** /ˈpetʃələnt/ *adj* showing childish bad temper over unimportant things, or for no reason at all—**~ly** *adv*: *"I won't!" she said petulantly.*—**~lance** *n* [U (at)]
- pe-tu-ni-a** /pəˈtjuːniə/ || pəˈtuː-/ *n* a garden plant with colourful flowers shaped like a widening tube
- Peu-geot** /ˈpɜːʒəʊ/ || pjuːˈʒəʊ/ also **Peugeot Tal-bot** /ˌpiːtə ˈtɒl ˈbɒt/ a French company that makes cars and bikes: *He works for Peugeot.* | *I've just bought a new Peugeot.*
- pew** /pjuː/ *n* 1 a long seat (BENCH (1)) with a back to it, for people to sit on in church. Pews are generally thought of as hard and uncomfortable. 2 *humor* a seat: *Take a pew!* (=sit down)
- pew-ter** /ˈpjuːtər/ *n* [U] 1 a greyish metal made by mixing lead and tin: *a pewter tankard* 2 also **pewter ware** /ˌpiːtə ˈweɪ/—dishes, cups, etc., made from this
- pey-ote** /peɪˈəʊti/ *n* a kind of CACTUS plant which is used by NATIVE AMERICANS in Mexico and the American southwest in religious ceremonies and for making sick people well. The plant contains a drug called Mescaline which is HALLUCINOGENIC (=causes dream-like thoughts which seem real).
- Pey-ton Place** /ˌpeɪtən ˈpleɪs/ a NOVEL by Grace Metalious, later made into a film. It takes place in a small town among a few people who have difficult emotional relationships and treat each other badly. People sometimes say that a situation is like Peyton Place, meaning that there are many secrets, BETRAYALS, and emotional upsets.
- Pfeif-fer** /ˈfaɪfər/, **Mi-chelle** /mɪˈʃel/ (1959–) an

American film actress, regarded as one of the most beautiful. Her films include *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Fabulous Baker Boys*. —see colour picture on page 228

pfen-nig /'fɛnɪɡ/ *n* a small German coin worth one hundredth ($\frac{1}{100}$) of a MARK³

PG /,piː 'dʒiː/ parental guidance; (of a film) which may in parts be unsuitable for children under 15. Children may watch PG films only if they are with an adult. —compare U³

PGA /,piː dʒiː 'eɪ/ [*the*] Professional Golfers' Association; an American organization for those who make money from GOLF either by playing it, running golf courses, or teaching. The organization runs the **PGA Championship**, a golfing competition.

PGCE /,piː dʒiː siː 'iː/ *n* (in Britain) postgraduate certificate of education; a qualification that allows people who have been to university to teach in state schools: *I'm planning to do a PGCE next year.* | *Have you got a PGCE?*

PG Tips /,piː dʒiː 'tɪps/ *tdmk* a kind of tea sold in Britain, known for its advertisements which feature CHIMPANZEES dressed to look like humans

pH /piː 'eɪtʃ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a number which represents the degree to which a substance, esp. soil, is acid or ALKALINE (ALKALI): *to test the pH of the soil*

phae-ton /'feɪtən||'feɪtən/ *n* a light open carriage used in former times, usu. pulled by two horses

phag-o-cyte /'fægəsait/ *n med* a blood cell, such as a LEUCOCYTE, which protects the body by destroying harmful bacteria, etc.

pha-lanx /'fælæŋks||'feɪ-/ *n -lanxes or -langes* /fə'lændʒɪz/ 1 [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of men or animals packed closely together, esp. for attack or defence: *A phalanx of policemen bore down on the rioters.* 2 [+*sing./pl. v*] (esp. in ancient Greece) a group of soldiers packed closely together for better protection 3 *med* a bone in a finger or toe

phal-lic /'fælɪk/ *adj* of or like a phallus: *a phallic symbol*

phal-lus /'fæləs/ *n* an image of the male sex organ (PENIS), esp. as used in some forms of religion as a sign of the power of man to produce children

phan-tas-m /'fæntæzəm/ *n esp. lit* something that exists only in the imagination; an ILLUSION —**phantasmal** /fæn'tæzməl/ *adj*

phan-tas-ma-go-ri-a /fæn,tæzmə'gɔːrɪə, 'fæntæz-/ *n* [(of)] a confused dreamlike changing scene of different things, real and/or imagined —**ric** /'gɔːrɪk||'gɑː-, 'gɔː-/ *-rical adj*

phan-ta-sy /'fæntəsi/ *n* [C;U] *old use for* FANTASY

phan-tom /'fæntəm/ *n* 1 a shadowy likeness of a dead person that seems to appear on earth; GHOST: *phantom riders passing by in the night* | (fig., humor) *The phantom letter-writer has been here again; all my stationery has disappeared!* 2 something that exists only in one's imagination: *the phantoms that troubled his dreams*

Phantom of the Op-e-ra /,ˌˌ . . . 'ɒp-ə/ [*the*] a story about a man wearing a MASK who KIDNAPS an OPERA singer. There are many different films and plays based on the story.

phantom preg-nan-cy /,ˌˌ . . . 'ɒp-ə/ also **hysterical pregnancy** *AmE-* *n* a condition in which a woman seems to be PREGNANT but in fact is not

pha-raoh /'feərəʊ/ *n* (often *cap.*) a ruler of ancient Egypt: *Pharaoh Rameses II*

phar-i-sa-ic /,færɪ'seɪ-ɪk-əl/ also **phar-i-sa-i-cal** /-ɪkəl/ — *adj fml derog* making a show of being good and religious —**ism** /'færɪseɪ-ɪzəm/ *n* [U]

phar-i-see /'færɪsiː/ *n fml derog* a person who in a self-satisfied way values too highly the outward form of something, esp. a religion, rather than its true meaning

Pharisee *n* a member of a group of Jews in ancient Jerusalem who were very careful and serious in obeying religious laws, and considered themselves very holy because of this. In the Bible, Jesus criticized them for being HYPOCRITES.

phar-ma-ceu-ti-cal /,fɑːmə'sjuːtɪkəl-əl||,fɑːrmə'suː-/ *adj* connected with (the making of) medicine: *the large pharmaceutical companies* —**cally** /kli/ *adv*

phar-ma-cist /'fɑːməsɪst||'fɑːr-/ *n* ||also **druggist** *AmE-* a skilled person who owns or runs a pharmacy; CHEMIST (3)

phar-ma-col-o-gy /,fɑːmə'kɒlədʒi||,fɑːrmə'kɑː-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of medicines and drugs —**gist** *n*

phar-ma-co-poe-ia /,fɑːməkə'piːə||,fɑːr-/ *n tech* 1 an official book describing medicines, what they contain, the amount to be given to a sick person, etc. 2 all the medicines that are (officially permitted to be) used in a particular country

phar-ma-cy /'fɑːməsi||'fɑːr-/ *n* 1 [C] a (part of a) shop where medicines are sold: *an all-night pharmacy* —compare DISPENSARY, DRUGSTORE 2 [U] (the study of) the making and/or giving out of medicine

phar-yn-gi-tis /,færɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] *med* a medical condition that includes soreness of the throat

phar-ynx /'færɪŋks/ *n med* the tube at the back of the mouth that leads from the back of the nose to the point where the air-passage and food-passage divide —see picture at RESPIRATORY

phase¹ /feɪz/ *n* 1 [(in, of)] a stage of development: *The new weapons system is still in the research phase.* | *The election campaign has now entered a critical phase/its final phase.* | *Don't worry about your son's shyness; it's just a phase he's going through.* —compare STAGE¹ (2) 2 [(of)] any of a fixed number of changes in the appearance of the moon or a PLANET as seen from the Earth at different times during their ORBIT: *the phases of the moon* 3 **in/out of phase (with)** *tech* working/not working or going together (with another or each other): *The carrier wave has got out of phase with the signal wave.*

phase² *v* [T] to plan or arrange in separate phases: *The army is making a phased withdrawal from the occupied territory.*

phase sthg. ↔ **in phr** *v* [T] to introduce (something) in stages or gradually: *The government is going to phase in the new pension scheme over five years.*

phase sthg. ↔ **out phr** *v* [T] to stop or remove (something) in stages or gradually: *The bus service to country areas is being phased out.* —**phase-out** /'ˌˌ-ˌ/ *n*

PhD /,piː eɪtʃ 'diː/ also **D Phil** — *n* Doctor of Philosophy; (a title for someone who has) a university degree of very high rank, above an MA or MSc, which takes about three years and usu. involves doing research. Someone who has a PhD is said to have a **doctorate** and is often given the title of **Dr**: *Jacqueline Hope, PhD* | *Dr Jacqueline Hope*

pheas-ant /'fezənt/ *n* **pheasants** or **pheasant** a large long-tailed bird shot for food, the male of which is usu. brightly coloured. Pheasants can legally be shot in certain seasons in Britain and the US, and in Britain shooting them is a generally UPPER-CLASS sport. —see picture at BIRD

phe-no-bar-bi-tone /,fiːnəʊ'bɑːbɪtəʊn||-'bɑːr-/ *BrE* || **phe-no-bar-bi-tal** /-bɪtəl||-bɪtɔːl/ *esp. AmE-* *n* [U] a powerful calming drug that helps a person to sleep

phe-nom-e-nal /fi'nomɪnəl||-'nɑː-/ *adj* 1 *usu. apprec* very unusual; EXTRAORDINARY: *phenomenal strength* | *a phenomenal (=very powerful) memory* 2 [*no comp.*] *fml* known through the senses: *a phenomenal experience* —**ly** *adj*: *phenomenally strong*

phe-nom-e-non /fi'nomɪnən||fi'nɑːmɪnɑːn, -nən/ *n -na* /nə/ 1 a fact, event, type of behaviour, etc., that exists and can be experienced by the senses, esp. one that is unusual and/or of scientific interest: *Magnetism is a natural phenomenon.* | *Snow in Egypt is an almost unknown phenomenon.* | *International terrorism is not just a recent phenomenon.* 2 a very unusual person, thing, event, etc.: *A child who could play the piano at the age of two would indeed be a phenomenon.*

phew /fjuː/ also **whew** *interj* (a quick short whistling breath, either in or out, expressing tiredness, shock, or RELIEF)

phi-al /'faɪəl/ also **vial** — *n* a small bottle, esp. for liquid medicines: *a phial of morphine*

Phi Be-ta Kap-pa /,faɪ 'bɪtə 'kæpə/ *n* (someone who is a member of) an American society for the recognition of ACADEMIC high achievement in university and college students. This **honor society** was started in 1776. Students are elected for this highly-respected honour in their third or fourth year of college.

Phil-a-del-phi-a /,fɪlə'delfiə/ also **Philly** *infml* a city in the US state of Pennsylvania, where the Declaration of Independence from Britain was signed in 1776. Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the US. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

phi-lan-der-er /fɪ'lændərə/ *n* *old-fash derog* a man who

amuses himself by having (sexual) relations with (many) women, with no serious intentions — **dering** *adj*, *n* [A;U]

phil-an-throp-ic /ˌfɪləˈnθrɒpɪk/ — *adj* of or showing philanthropy: *a philanthropic attitude* | *our philanthropic institutions* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

phi-lan-thro-pist /fɪˈlænθrəpɪst/ *n* a person who helps those who are poor or in trouble, esp. a rich person who gives generous gifts of money

phi-lan-thro-py /fɪˈlænθrəpi/ *n* [U] a feeling of kindness and love for all people, esp. as shown in an active way by giving help or money to people who are poor or in trouble

phi-lat-e-ly /fɪˈlætəli/ *n* [U] *tech* stamp collecting — **list** *n* — **lic** /ˌfɪləˈtelɪk/ *adj*

Phil-by /ˈfɪlbi/, **Kim** /kɪm/ (1911–88) an English spy who was already working for the Soviet Union when he was employed by the British government. He went to the Soviet Union to live in 1963 before he could be caught. — see also ANTHONY BLUNT, GUY BURGESS, DONALD MACLEAN

Phil-har-mo-ni-a Or-ches-tra /ˌfɪləməʊniə ˈɔ:kɪstrə, ˌfɪlhɑː-||-hɑːrməʊniə ˈɔ:r-/ *n* [the] an important London ORCHES-TRA, begun in 1945

phil-har-mon-ic /ˌfɪləˈmɒnɪk/, ˌfɪlhɑː-||, ˌfɪlərˈmɑː-, ˌfɪlhɑːr-/ *adj* [A] (*usu. cap.*) (used in names of musical organiza-tions): *the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*

Phil-ip /ˈfɪlɪp/, **Prince** (1921–) DUKE OF EDINBURGH and husband of the British queen, ELIZABETH II. Prince Philip was born into the Greek royal family but became a British citizen in 1947. He has no official position but is in-volved in many public organizations and charities (CHARITY).

Phil-ip Mor-ris /ˌfɪlɪp ˈmɒrɪs/ — *mɔːr-/* an American MANUFACTURING company known mostly for tobacco products

phi-lip-pic /fɪˈlɪpɪk/ *n* *lit* or *fml* a bitter angry speech attack-ing someone in public

Phil-ip-pines /ˈfɪlɪpɪnz/ ||, ˌfɪləˈpɪnz/ [the] a country made up of a group of over 7,000 islands off the SE coast of Asia; capital Manila; population 60,097,000 (1989). Much of its foreign trade is with the US, and there are important US military bases there.

phil-is-tine /ˈfɪlɪstain/ — *stɪzn/* *n* *derog* a person who does not understand and actively dislikes art, literature, music, beautiful things, etc., and is proud to remain in this con-dition — **tinism** /stɪnɪzəm/ *n* [U]

Philistine a member of a race of people, the **Philistines**, who lived in the area of Palestine in Biblical times

Phil-lips /ˈfɪlɪps/, **Captain Mark** (1949–) an English army officer who was the husband of Princess Anne from 1973 until they separated in 1989 and divorced (DIVORCE) in 1992

Philly /ˈfɪli/ see PHILADELPHIA

phi-lol-o-gy /fɪˈlɒlədʒi/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *n* [U] *old-fash tech* the study of the nature and esp. development of words or language — compare LINGUISTICS — **gist** *n* — **gical** /fɪləˈlɒdʒɪkəl/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *adj* — **gically** /kli/ *adv*

phi-los-o-pher /fɪˈlɒsəfə/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *n* 1 a person who studies, has much knowledge of, and usu. teaches philosophy: *Plato, Aristotle, and the other Greek philosophers* 2 a PHILOSOPHICAL (2) person: *If you've had as much trouble as I've had in my life, you need to be a bit of a philosopher.*

philosopher's stone /ˌfɪləˈsɒfɪkəl/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *n* an imaginary substance that was thought in former times to have the power to change any other metal into gold

phil-o-soph-i-cal /ˌfɪləˈsɒfɪkəl/ — *ˈlɑː-/* also **phil-o-soph-ic** /ˌfɪləˈsɒfɪk/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *adj* 1 of or about philosophy: *the philosophical writings of Sartre* 2 [(about)] *apprec* ac-cepting difficulty or unhappiness with calmness and quiet courage: *a philosophical nature* | *She was quite philosophical about failing her driving test.* — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*: *He took his defeat philosophically.*

phi-los-o-phize also **-phise** *BrE* /fɪˈlɒsəfaɪz/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *v* [(about)] to reason in a PHILOSOPHICAL (1) way

phi-los-o-phy /fɪˈlɒsəfi/ — *ˈlɑː-/* *n* 1 [U] the study of the na-ture and meaning of existence, reality, knowledge, good-ness, etc. 2 [C] any of various systems of thought hav-ing this as its base: *the philosophy of Aristotle* | (fig.) *Eat, drink, and be merry — that's my philosophy!* (=my rule for living life) — see also NATURAL PHILOSOPHY

phil-tre || also **-ter** *AmE* /ˈfɪltə/ *n* *esp. lit* a magic drink intended to make a person fall in love

phiz-og /ˈfɪzɒg/ — *zɑːg/* *n* [*usu. sing.*] *old-fash humor, esp. BrE* the face

phle-bi-tis /flɪˈbaitɪs/ *n* [U] a diseased swollen condition of the tubes carrying blood through the body (VEINS)

phlegm /flem/ *n* [U] 1 the thick jelly-like substance (MUCUS) produced in the nose and throat, esp. when one has a cold 2 *fml, often apprec* slowness in showing feel-ing, interest, or activity; calmness

phleg-mat-ic /flegˈmætɪk/ *adj* *fml, often apprec* calm and unexcitable: *He's a very phlegmatic character.* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

phlox /flɒks/ || flæks/ *n* 1 a tall garden plant which produces groups of brightly coloured flowers 2 *AmE* a low, spreading plant which has flowers in the spring

Phnom Penh /ˌnɒm ˈpen, pəˌnɒm-||, nɑːm-/ capital of Cambodia, taken by the KHMER ROUGE in 1975, when most of the population was sent out to work in the country

pho-bi-a /ˈfəubiə/ *n* [(about)] a strong, unnatural, and usu. unreasonable fear and dislike; common phobias are fear of water, flying, heights, and closed spaces: *He needs help in overcoming his phobias.* — **phobic** *n, adj*

phoe-nix /ˈfiːnɪks/ *n* in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a bird be-lieved to live for 500 years and then burn itself and be born again from the ashes: *We all thought the airline was finished when it went bankrupt, but it rose phoenix-like/like a phoenix from the ashes.*

Phoenix the capital and largest city of Arizona — see colour map on pages 1374–5

phone¹ /fəʊn/ *n* a telephone: *Are you on the phone?* (=Do you own a telephone?) | *I spoke to him by phone.* | *The phone was ringing so she answered it.* | *a long-distance phone call* | *What's your phone number?* | *He picked up the phone.* (=the part into which one speaks; RECEIVER) | *I was so angry I slammed down the phone.*

phone² || also **call** *AmE* — *v* [I;T (UP)] to telephone: *Has she phoned yet?* | *I phoned him (up) last night.* | *He phoned (me) to say he couldn't come.* | *I'll phone the result of the test to you.* — see TELEPHONE (USAGE)

phone (sthg. ↔) in *phr v* [I;T] to telephone (one's place of work) to report something or receive new instructions, esp. regularly: *How many of our salesmen have phoned in so far?* | *He phoned in the results of the poll.* — see also PHONE-IN

-phone see WORD FORMATION

phone book /ˈfəʊnbʊk/ also **telephone directory** *fml* — *n* a book containing an alphabetical list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all the people who have a tel-ephone in a certain area except for those who wish these details to remain private: *Are you in the phone book?* — see TELEPHONE (USAGE), compare YELLOW PAGES

phone box /ˈfəʊnbɒks/ also **call box, phone booth, telephone box, telephone booth** || *usu. phone booth or telephone booth* *AmE* — *n* a small building or structure containing a telephone for use by the public — see TELEPHONE (USAGE). See picture on page 989

phone-card /ˈfəʊnkɑːd/ — *kɑːrd/* *n* (in Britain) a plastic card bought from certain shops which is used in some pay tel-ephones instead of money

phone-in /ˈfəʊnɪn/ *BrE* || **call-in** *AmE* — *n* a radio or television show in which telephoned questions, statements, etc., from the public are broadcast. A particular subject is usu. discussed each time and there may be one or more people in the STUDIO answering questions and giving in-formation.

pho-neme /ˈfəʊnɪm/ *n* *tech* the smallest unit of speech that can be used to make a word different from another that is the same in every other way: *In English, the "b" in "big" and the "p" in "pig" represent two different pho-nemes.* — **nemic** /fəˈniːmɪk/ *adj* — **nemically** /kli/ *adv*

pho-ne-mics /fəˈniːmɪks/ *n* [U] *tech* the study and descrip-tion of the phonemes of languages

phone-tap-ping /ˈfəʊnəpɪŋ/ *n* [U] listening secretly to other peo-ple's telephone conversations by means of special ELEC-TRONIC equipment

pho-net-ic /fəˈnetɪk/ *adj* *tech* 1 of or about the sounds of human speech 2 using special signs, often different

phras-al /'freɪzəl/ *adj* made up of or connected with a phrase or phrases

phrasal verb /, ... ' / *n* a group of words that acts like a verb and consists usu. of a verb with an adverb and/or a PREPOSITION. "Set off" and "put up with" are phrasal verbs. In this dictionary phrasal verbs are marked *phr v*

phrase¹ /freɪz/ *n* 1 (in grammar) a group of words without a FINITE verb, esp. when they are used to form part of a sentence: "Walking along the road" and "a packet of cigarettes" are phrases. —compare CLAUSE (1), SENTENCE¹ (1) 2 a short expression, esp. one that is clever and very suited to what is meant: *He was — what is the phrase I'm looking for — not intimately acquainted with his subject.* —see also to coin a phrase (COIN²), turn a phrase (TURN¹) 3 a short independent passage of music that is part of a longer piece

phrase² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] 1 to express in the stated way: *He phrased his criticisms carefully/in careful terms. | a politely-phrased refusal* 2 to perform (music) so as to give full effect to separate PHRASES¹ (3)

phrase-book /'freɪzbʊk/ *n* a book giving and explaining phrases of a particular (foreign) language, for people to use when they go abroad

phra-se-ol-o-gy /,freɪzi'plədʒi/ -'ɑː-/ *n* [U] the way in which words are chosen, arranged, and/or used, esp. in the stated subject or field: *I don't understand all this scientific phraseology.*

phre-no-lo-gy /frə'nɒlədʒi/ -'nɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of the shape of the human head, claimed to show a subject's character and mental ability, esp. popular in the 19th century —phrenologist *n*

phut /fʌt/ *n infml* 1 *BrE* a dull sound like something bursting 2 *go phut/go kaput* to break down completely: *The television's gone phut.*

phy-lum /'faɪləm/ *n* **phyla** /'faɪlə/ *tech* a main division of animals or plants (or languages), above a CLASS¹ (6)

Phys. Ed. /,fɪz 'ed/ *n AmE abbrev. for:* PHYSICAL EDUCATION

phys-ic /'fɪzɪk/ *n* [C;U] *old use or humor* (a) medicine, esp. a LAXATIVE: *a dose of physic* —see also PHYSICS

phys-i-cal¹ /'fɪzɪkəl/ *adj* 1 of or for the body: *physical exercise | physical strength | people with mental or physical disabilities | a complete physical examination* —see also PHYSICAL² 2 of or being matter or material things, as opposed to things of the mind, spirit, etc.: *the physical world* 3 of or according to the laws of nature: *There must be a physical explanation for these strange happenings.* 4 [A] concerning the natural formation of the Earth's surface: *physical geography* 5 [A] (of certain sciences) of the branch that is connected with physics: *physical chemistry* 6 *euph* (esp. in sports) using violence; rough: *That tackle was rather physical!* —see also PHYSICALLY

physical² also **medical**, **physical ex-am-i-na-tion** /, ... ' / — *n* a thorough examination of the body and general health of a person by a doctor, esp. in order to discover whether they are fit to do a particular job: *The company insisted that he had a complete physical. | to pass/fail the physical* —compare CHECKUP

physical ed-u-ca-tion /, ... ' / (abbrev. **P.E.**, **Phys. Ed.** *AmE*) *n* [U] the time spent in school at sports and exercise

physical jerks /, ... ' / *n* [P] *humor* bodily exercises

phys-i-cally /'fɪzɪkli/ *adv* 1 with regard to the body: *He's all right physically, but mentally he's rather confused.* 2 *infml* completely: *It's physically impossible to finish all this work by the end of the week.*

physically chal-lenged /, ... ' / *adj AmE euph* physically HANDICAPPED

physical sci-ence /, ... ' / *n* [U] those branches of science which are concerned mainly with non-living things, e.g. PHYSICS, chemistry, and ASTRONOMY

physical train-ing /, ... ' / also **physical education** — *n* see PT

phy-si-cian /fɪ'zɪʃən/ *n old-fash* 1 a doctor, esp. one who treats diseases with medicines (as opposed to a SURGEON, who performs operations) 2 **physician**, **heal thyself** a phrase from the Bible, used when saying that a person should deal with their own problems or weaknesses before they begin to advise others

phys-i-cist /'fɪzɪsɪst/ *n* a person who studies or works in physics

phys-ics /'fɪzɪks/ *n* [U] the science concerned with the study of matter and natural forces, such as light, heat, movement, etc.

phys-i-o /'fɪziəʊ/ *n -s infml* a physiotherapist

phys-i-og-no-my /,fɪzi'ɒnəmi/ -'ɑː-, -'ɑːg-/ *n fml or tech* the general appearance of the face, esp. as showing the character and the mind

phys-i-ol-o-gy /,fɪzi'plədʒi/ -'ɑː-/ *n* [U] a science concerned with the study of how the bodies of living things, and their various parts, work —compare ANATOMY —**gist** *n* —**gical** /,fɪziə'plədʒɪkəl/ -'lɑː-/ *adj*: *The doctors could find no physiological cause for his illness, and decided it must be psychosomatic.*

phys-i-o-ther-a-py /,fɪziəʊ'therəpi/ *n* [U] the use of exercises, rubbing, heat, etc., in the treatment of sick people —**pist** *n*

phy-sique /fɪ'zɪk/ *n* the form and appearance of a human body, esp. a male body: *He has a magnificent physique.* (=has large muscles and is not at all fat)

pi /paɪ/ *n* a letter (Π, π) of the Greek alphabet, used in GEOMETRY to represent the fixed RATIO of the CIRCUMFERENCE of a circle to its DIAMETER: *Pi equals/The value of pi is about 22/7, or 3.14159.*

Pi-af /'piːæf/ || **piː'ɑːf**, **E-dith** /'iːdɪθ/ *n* (1915–63) a popular French CABARET singer and songwriter, sometimes called the **Little Sparrow**. She had many problems in her life and her music has a feeling of strength and sadness. Her best-known songs are *Milord* and *Je ne regrette rien*.

pi-a-nist /'piːənɪst, 'piːə- || 'piːənɪst, 'piːə-/ *n* a person who plays the piano, esp. with skill: *a concert pianist*

pi-an-o¹ /piːənəʊ/ also **pi-an-o-for-te** /piːənəʊ'fɔːti/ -'fɔːteɪ/ *fml* — *n -os* a large musical instrument, played by pressing narrow black or white bars (KEYS) which cause small hammers to hit wire strings: *to play the piano | to have piano lessons | a piano stool* —see also GRAND PIANO, UPRIGHT PIANO, see INSTRUMENT (USAGE)

pi-an-o² /piːənəʊ, piː'ɑː- || piːənəʊ/ *adj, adv* (of music) played quietly —compare FORTE²

Pi-a-no-la /,piːə'nəʊlə/ *n tdmk* (often not cap.) a type of PLAYER PIANO

piano stool /'piːə' ... ' / *n* a seat the height of which can be changed to suit different heights of people playing a piano

pi-as-tre || also **-ter** *AmE* /piːæstəʃ/ *n* a small coin or banknote in Egypt, Syria, the Lebanon, and the Sudan, worth one hundredth 1/100 of the units on which their money systems are based

pi-az-za /piːætsə/ *n* a public square or market place, esp. in Italy

pic-a-dor /'pɪkədɔːʃ/ *n* (in a BULLFIGHT) a man on horseback who annoys and weakens the BULL by sticking a long spearlike weapon into it —compare MATADOR

pic-a-resque /,pɪkə'resk/ *adj tech* telling the story of the adventures and travels of a character of whom one rather disapproves but who is usu. not really wicked: *a picaresque novel*

Pi-cas-so /pɪ'kæsəʊ/ -'kɑː-/ , **Pab-lo** /'pæbləʊ/ || 'pɑː-/ (1881–1973) a Spanish painter who worked in France; one of the FOUNDERS of CUBISM. His work is usu. divided into periods e.g. his **blue period**. One of his most famous paintings is *Guernica*, a criticism of war and FASCISM. —see picture at CUBISM

Pic-ca-dil-ly /,pɪkə'dɪli/ a central London street that runs beside GREEN PARK between Hyde Park Corner and Piccadilly Circus. Buildings on Piccadilly include expensive hotels, clubs, and offices.

Piccadilly Cir-cus /, ... ' / a busy square in central London known for the figure of EROS in the middle and for its lively night-life — see colour map on page 817.

pic-ca-lil-li /,pɪkə'lɪli/ *n* [U] a hot-tasting food made with cut-up vegetables, usu. eaten with meat

pic-ca-nin-ny, **pick-a-** /,pɪkə'nɪni, 'pɪkənɪni/ *n old-fash, now taboo* a small child of a black-skinned race

pic-co-lo /'pɪkələʊ/ *n -los* a small musical instrument of the WOODWIND family; small FLUTE

Piccadilly Circus



pick ¹ /pɪk/ *v* [T] **1** to take (what one likes or considers best or most suitable) from among a group or number; choose: *The students have to pick three courses from a list of 15.* | *He was picked for the England team.* [+obj+to-v] *She's been picked to head the planning committee.* | *You've really picked a winner (=made a very good choice) this time!* —see also **PICK OUT** (1) **2** [(for)] to pull or break off (part of a plant) from a tree or plant; gather: *They've gone fruit-picking today.* | *She picked some flowers from the garden.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *He picked her a rose.* **3** [(from, out of)] to take up or remove (something) separately or bit by bit using the fingers, a beak, a pointed instrument, etc.: *The vultures were picking the meat from the carcass.* | *picking bits of glass out of the carpet* | *The dog picked the bone clean.* (=removed all the meat from it) **4** to remove unwanted pieces from, esp. with a finger or a pointed instrument: *Don't pick your nose!* | *She was picking her teeth.* **5** to cause intentionally; PROVOKE: *He's so argumentative; he's always trying to pick quarrels/fights with people.* **6** to steal or take from, esp. in small amounts: *It's easy to have your pocket picked in a big crowd.* | (fig.) *I hear you're a mechanic; can I pick your brains about repairing my car?* (=make use of your knowledge) —see also **PICKPOCKET** **7** to unlock (a lock) with any instrument other than a key, esp. secretly and for an illegal purpose **8** *AmE* for **PLUCK** ¹ (3) **9** **pick and choose** sometimes *derog* to choose very carefully from a number of objects, possibilities, etc., taking only those one particularly likes or that are particularly good, etc. **10** **pick holes in** to find fault with; find the weak points in: *It was easy to pick holes in his flimsy argument.* **11** **pick one's way/steps** to walk carefully, choosing the places to put one's feet down: *After the explosion I picked my way through the rubble.* **12** **pick someone/something to pieces** *infml* to examine the nature of a person or thing closely in order to find fault: *She's very polite to him when he's there, but picks him to pieces behind his back.* —see also **have (got) a bone to pick with someone** (**BONE** ¹)

pick at sthg. *phr v* [T] to eat only in small quantities and with little effort or interest

pick sbdy./sthg. ↔ off *phr v* [T] to shoot (people or animals) one by one, by taking careful aim

pick on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to choose for punishment, blame, or an unpleasant job, esp. repeatedly and unfairly: *Why are you always picking on me?* | *I'm tired of being picked on.*

pick sbdy./sthg. ↔ out *phr v* [T] **1** to choose specially or carefully from among others: *She picked out a scarf to wear with the dress.* | *The witness picked out the wrong man in the identification parade.* **2** to see (someone or something) among others, esp. with difficulty; DISCERN: *Can you pick out your sister in this crowd?* **3** [often *pass.*] to make (something) clear to see: *The houses in the painting were picked out in white.* **4** to play (a tune) on a stringed musical instrument, usu. slowly or with difficulty

pick sthg. ↔ over *phr v* [T] *infml* to examine (too) carefully in order to choose the best or remove the unwanted: *He was picking over the tomatoes on the stall.*

pick up *phr v* **1** [T] (**pick sthg./sbdy. ↔ up**) to take hold of (esp. something small or light) and lift it up from

a surface: *I picked up a magazine that was lying on the table.* | *She picked up a stone and threw it at the window.* **2** [T] (**pick sthg. ↔ up**) to gather together; collect: *Please pick up all your toys when you've finished playing.* | (fig.) *It was a bad setback, but we must pick up the pieces and start again.* | *Angrily, he broke off their engagement, but some months later they were able to pick up the threads of their relationship.* (=begin it again) **3** [T] (**pick sbdy. ↔ up**) to raise (oneself) after a fall or failure: *She picked herself up and started running again.* **4** [I;T] (**pick sthg. ↔ up**) to (cause to) start again: *Let's pick up where we left off.* | *We picked up the conversation after an interruption.* **5** [T] (**pick sthg. ↔ up**) to come to have; gain, buy, learn, etc.; ACQUIRE: *Where did you pick up that book/your English/those habit/such ideas?* | *The system looks difficult at first, but you'll soon pick it up.* (=begin to understand it) | *He picked up a bug (=an illness) while he was abroad.* **6** [T] (**pick sbdy./sthg. ↔ up**) to collect; arrange to go and get: *Pick me up at the hotel.* | *I'm going to pick up my coat from the cleaner's.* **7** [T] (**pick sbdy. ↔ up**) to allow to enter a vehicle: *We picked up a hitchhiker.* **8** [T] (**pick sbdy. ↔ up**) *infml* to become friendly with after a short meeting, usu. with sexual intentions: *I didn't like him; he was just trying to pick me up.* **9** [T] (**pick sbdy. ↔ up**) to catch (a criminal); ARREST: *He was picked up by the police as he tried to leave the country.* **10** [T] (**pick sthg. ↔ up**) to be able to hear or receive: *We picked up radio signals for help from the damaged plane.* **11** [T] (**pick sthg. ↔ up**) to be prepared to pay: *The football club should pick up the bill/tab for the damage, since their fans are responsible for it.* **12** [T] (**pick sthg. ↔ up**) to cause to increase: *We picked up speed as we went downhill.* **13** [I] to improve; return to a former good state: *Trade is picking up again.* **14** [I;T] (**pick sbdy. ↔ up**) to (cause to) improve in health: *This tonic should pick you up.* —see also **PICK-ME-UP**, **PICK-UP**

pick up on sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to be sensitive to: *I was trying to indicate I didn't want to go, but they didn't pick up on it.* **2** to notice: *Did you pick up on those things that were crawling in her hair?* **3** to call attention to or begin speaking about (something already mentioned): *Now I'd like to pick up on your objections to funding the project through the summer.*

pick ² *n* **1** [U] choice: *Which one do you want — take your pick!* (=choose whichever one you want) | *She could have had her pick of all the eligible young men.* **2** [the+S+of] the best (of many): *It's the pick of this month's new films.* | *It's not much good, but it's the pick of the bunch.*

pick ³ *n* **1** (*usu. in comb.*) a sharp-pointed usu. small instrument —see also **ICE PICK**, **TOOTH PICK** **2** *infml* a pickaxe **3** *AmE* or *infml* for **PLECTRUM**

pickaxe *BrE* || **pickax** *AmE* /'pɪk-æks/ also **pick** *infml* — a large tool with a wooden handle fitted into a curved iron bar with two sharp points, used for breaking up roads, rock, etc. —see picture at **AXE**

picked /pɪkt/ *adj* [A] often *apprec* chosen as very suitable for a special purpose: *The assault group consisted of six picked men.* —see also **HANDPICKED**

pick-er /'pɪkə/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a person or instrument that picks things, esp. crops: *The cotton pickers want more money.*

pick-et /'pɪkɪt/ *n* **1** someone placed, esp. by a trade union, at the entrance to a factory, shop, etc., to prevent anyone, esp. other workers, from going in until a quarrel with the employers is over. The number of pickets allowed in one place is limited by law in Britain: *The pickets persuaded the truck driver not to enter the factory.* —see also **FLYING PICKET** **2** [+sing./pl. *v*] a group or line of pickets: *The union placed a large picket at the factory gates.* | *Don't cross the picket line!* | *There were over a hundred men on the picket line this morning.* **3** a soldier with the special job of guarding a camp: *on picket duty* **4** [+sing./pl. *v*] a small group of such soldiers **5** [often *pl.*] a strong pointed stick fixed into the ground, esp. used with others to make a fence (**picket fence**)

picket ² *v* **1** [T] to surround as **PICKETS** ¹ (1) and stop the work or activity of: *The men picketed the factory/picketed all the people who wanted to go inside to work.* **2** [I] to act as a picket: *picketing miners* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep] to place (soldiers) in position as **PICKETS** ¹ (3)

Pick-ford's /'pɪkfədz/ -fərdz/ a company which stores people's furniture and moves belongings for people who are moving to a new house

pick-ings /'pɪkɪŋz/ *n* [P] *infml* additional money or profits taken dishonestly or regarded as a right: *There are some easy/rich pickings to be made in this job.*

pick-le¹ /'pɪkəl/ *n* 1 [U] a liquid, esp. VINEGAR or salt water, used to preserve vegetables or sometimes meat 2 [U] esp. *BrE* a substance eaten with food, esp. cold food, consisting of pieces of vegetable preserved in this: *sweet pickle* (=with added sugar) | *cheese and pickle sandwiches* 3 [C] *AmE* a vegetable, esp. a CUCUMBER, preserved in this 4 [S] *infml* a difficult or confused condition; MESS: *You are in a (pretty) pickle, aren't you! Let me help you out.* 5 [C] *BrE infml* a child who playfully does bad but not very harmful things

pickle² *v* [T] to preserve (food) in pickle: *pickled onions*

pick-led /'pɪkəld/ *adj* [F] *infml* drunk

pick-me-up /'pɪk-ˌme-ʊp/ *n infml* something, esp. a drink or medicine, that makes one feel stronger and more cheerful — see also **PICK UP** (14)

pick-pock-et /'pɪk,pɒk-ɪt/ *n* a person who steals things from people's pockets, esp. in a crowd

pick-up /'pɪk-ʊp/ *n* 1 the part of a record player, esp. the needle and arm, which receives and plays the sound from a record 2 also **pick-up truck** /'pɪk-ʊp-ˌtrʌk/ — a light VAN having an open body with low sides — see **picture** at **TRUCK** and at **VAN** 3 *infml* a person, esp. a woman, who is picked up (**PICK UP** (8)) 4 [U] *AmE* rate of increasing speed; ACCELERATION: *a car with good pick-up*

Pick-wick /'pɪkwɪk/, **Mr Sam-u-el** /'sæmjʊəl/ the chief character in the **Pickwick Papers**, a story by Charles Dickens. Pickwick is kind and good-tempered and thinks well of everyone. He is sometimes thought of as a typical Victorian English gentleman.

Pickwick Pa-pers /'pɪkwɪk-ˌpeɪ-pəz/ a book written in 1836–37 by Charles Dickens about the members of the Pickwick Club. They were Samuel Pickwick, Tracy Tupman, Augustus Snodgrass, and Nathaniel Winkle and the book is about their adventures.

pick-y /'pɪki/ *adj derog, esp. AmE for CHOOSY*: *She's such a picky eater.* — **iness** *n* [U]

pic-nic¹ /'pɪknɪk/ *n* 1 [C] a an occasion when food, usu. cold food, is taken to be eaten somewhere outdoors, esp. in the country: *They went on/for a picnic.* | *a picnic lunch* **b** *BrE* the food taken: *What a delicious picnic!* 2 [S *usu. in negatives*] *infml* something especially easy or pleasant to do: *It's no picnic having to look after six small children all day, you know!*

picnic² *v -ck-* [I] to go on or have a picnic — **~ker** *n*

picnic ar-e-a /'pɪknɪk-ˌeɪ-ə/ *n* an area near a road, with space to park cars, and tables where motorists can sit and have picnics

picnic bas-ket /'pɪknɪk-ˌbæ-sɪt/ also **picnic hamper** — *n* a strong basket used to carry food etc. for a picnic, esp. one that contains its own special plates, cups, knives, etc.

picnic ta-ble /'pɪknɪk-ˌteɪ-bl/ *n* a table used to have a picnic on, esp. one built near a road in the country and used by motorists

Pict /pɪkt/ *n* one of the group of people who lived in north and central Scotland from the 3rd to the 9th century and who often fought against the English

pic-to-ri-al /pɪk-ˌtɔːri-əl/ *adj* having, or expressed in, **PICTURES**¹ (1,2): *pictorial magazines* | *a pictorial record of the event* — **~ly** *adv*

pic-ture¹ /'pɪktʃə/ *n* 1 [C (of)] a painting or drawing: *Draw a picture of that tree/those children.* | *She painted a picture of the church.* | *Where shall I hang this picture?* | *You look as pretty as a picture* (=very pretty) *in that dress.* — compare **PORTRAIT** and see **picture** at **LIVING ROOM** 2 [C (of)] a photograph: *He took her picture/took a picture of her.* 3 [C *usu. sing.*] what is seen on a television or cinema SCREEN: *You can't get a clear picture on this TV set.* 4 [C] esp. *BrE* a cinema film — see also **PICTURES** 5 [C (of) *usu. sing.*] an image in the mind, esp. an exact one produced by a skilful description: *This book gives a vivid picture of life in England 200 years ago.* | *He painted a grim picture of the company's financial problems.* 6 [S] a situation: *The present political picture gives much cause for anxiety.* | *We'll fool him; you come in five minutes after me — get the picture?* (=do you understand?) 7 [the+S+of] the perfect example: *That baby is the picture of health.* (=looks very healthy) 8 [S] a person or thing

that is beautiful or unusual to look at: *This garden is a picture in the summer.* | *His face was a picture when we told him!* 9 **in/out of the picture** *infml* a in/not in the position of knowing all the facts: *I haven't heard about the latest developments; perhaps you could put me in the picture.* **b** receiving/not receiving one's share of attention: *She always wants to be in the picture.* 10 **picture in the attic** in the book *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, a way of talking about the picture in the title — see **PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY**

picture² *v* [T] 1 to imagine: *Just picture the scene — it must have been a terrible experience.* | *I can't quite picture myself as a father.* [+wh-] *Can't you picture how she must feel?* 2 [+obj+adv/prep] to paint or draw; make a picture of: *The artist has pictured him as a young man in riding dress.* — compare **DEPICT**

picture book /'pɪktʃə-ˌbʊk/ *n* a book for young children, made up mostly of pictures

picture card /'pɪktʃə-ˌkɑːd/ *n* a COURT CARD (||FACE CARD)

Picture of Do-ri-an Gray /'pɪktʃə-ˌɒv-ˌdɔːri-ən-ˌɡreɪ/, **The** a story by Oscar Wilde about a young, attractive man who has a picture of himself that he keeps in a room at the top of his house. As he gets older, he becomes an evil and immoral person, but his own face does not change with age. Instead, the picture of him changes to show how old and unpleasant he has become.

picture post-card /'pɪktʃə-ˌpɒst-ˌkɑːd/ *n fml for POSTCARD* (2)

picture-postcard /'pɪktʃə-ˌpɒst-ˌkɑːd/ *adj* [A] very pretty; picturesque: *a picture-postcard village*

picture rail /'pɪktʃə-ˌreɪl/ *n* a long, narrow piece of wood, plastic, etc. fixed to the upper part of living-room walls in older houses, for hanging pictures from

pic-tures /'pɪktʃəz/ *BrE || movies esp. AmE— n infml* 1 [the+P] *old-fash* the cinema: *Are you going to the pictures tonight?* 2 [P] the business of producing or acting in cinema films: *He's in pictures.*

pic-tur-esque /'pɪktʃə-ˌresk/ *adj* 1 (esp. of a place) charming and interesting enough to be made into a picture: *a picturesque scene/village* 2 (of a person or their manner, clothes, etc.) rather strange and unusual: *He was a picturesque figure with his long beard and strange old clothes.* 3 *often euph* (of language) unusually clear, strong, and descriptive — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

picture win-dow /'pɪktʃə-ˌwɪn-ˌdɒ/ *n* a large window made of a single piece of glass, usu. placed so that it looks out over an attractive view

pid-dle /'pɪdl/ *v* [I] *infml* 1 *BrE for URINATE* 2 *AmE* to waste time; DAWDLE — **piddle** *n* [U]

pid-dling /'pɪdlɪŋ/ *adj derog* small and unimportant: *piddling details*

pid-gin /'pɪdʒɪn/ *n* [C;U] a language which is a mixture of two or more other languages, esp. as used between people who do not speak each other's language: *pidgin English* — compare **CREOLE** (1), **LINGUA FRANCA**

pie /paɪ/ *n* [C;U] 1 (*often in comb.*) a pastry case, esp. a round one, filled with meat or fruit and covered with pastry, baked in a deep dish (**pie dish**): *a cherry pie* | *a meat pie.* — compare **TART**¹ (1) 2 **pie in the sky** *infml* a hopeful plan or suggestion that has not been, or has little chance of being, put into effect — see also **APPLE PIE**, **CUSTARD PIE**, **MUD PIE**, **PIE CHART**, **as easy as pie** (**EASY**¹), **have a finger in every pie** (**FINGER**¹)

▷ **USAGE** In British English a **pie** usually has a pastry cover; if there is no cover it is called a **tart** (if it is filled with fruit) or a **flan**. In American English a **pie** may or may not have a cover.◁

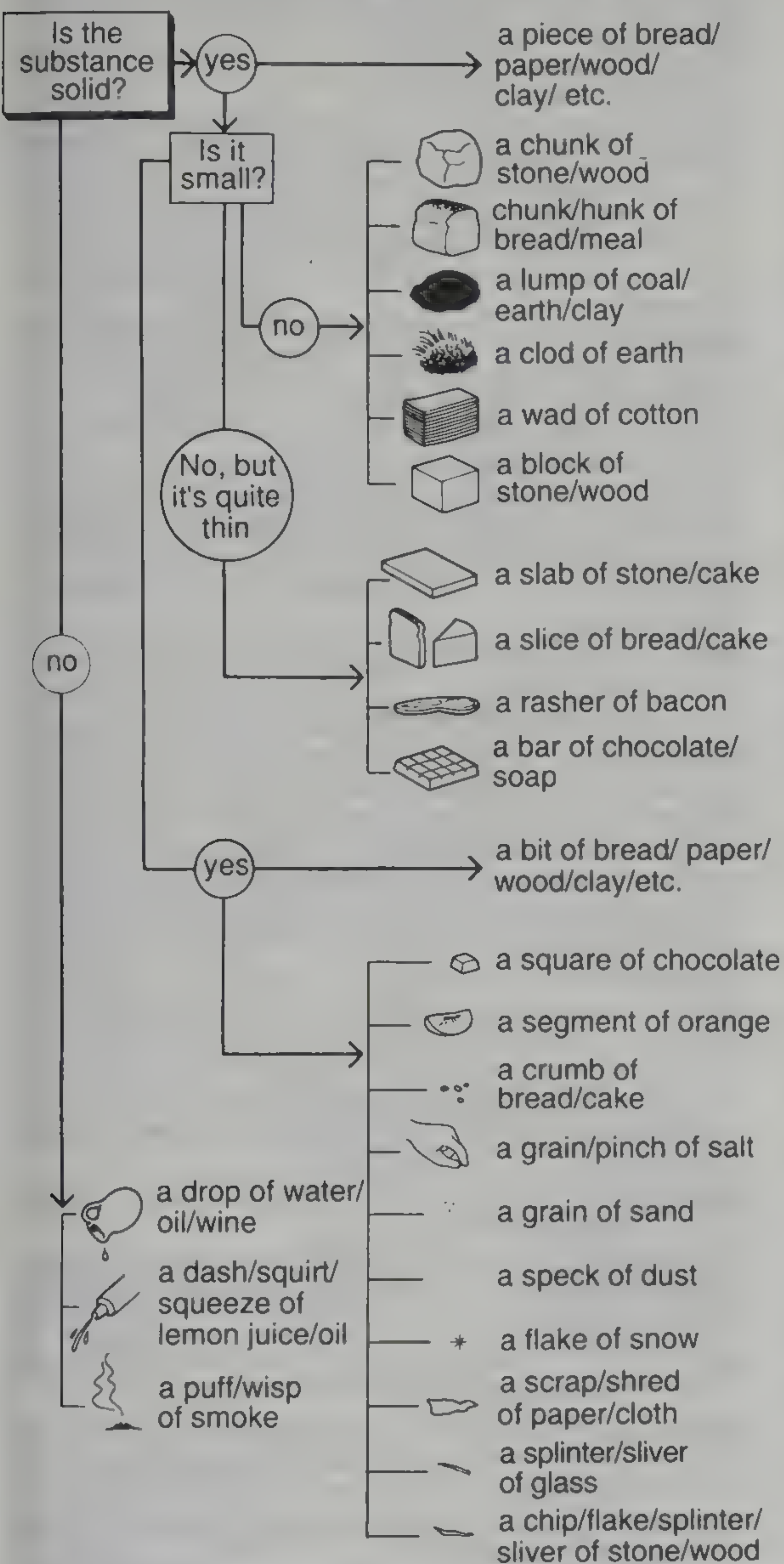
pie and mash /'paɪ-ˌən-ˌmæʃ/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* (a serving of) a small **PIE** (=meat covered with pastry) served with mashed (**MASH**¹) potatoes, typically served in cheap restaurants

pie-bald /'paɪbɔːld/ *n, adj* (a horse) coloured with large black and white PATCHES — compare **SKEWBALD**

piece¹ /piːs/ *n* 1 [C (of)] a bit, such as: **a** a part of anything solid which is separated, broken, or marked off from a larger part or a whole body: *a piece of chalk/sello-tape/string/cake* | *pieces of broken glass* **b** a single object that is an example of a kind or class, or that forms part of a set: *a piece of paper* (=a whole sheet) | *a piece of furniture* (=a chair, bed, table, etc.) | *a piece of sculpture* (=a STATUE, etc.) | *a piece of music* (=a song, SYMPHONY, etc.) | (fig.) *Let me give you a piece of* (=some) *advice.* 2 [C] a

piece

There are many words available to talk about a piece of something in English. The table below shows some of them and gives an idea of which substance they can refer to.



any of many parts made to be fitted together: *This jigsaw had 2000 pieces, but some are missing.* | *This chair comes to pieces.* (=can be taken apart) | *I'm going to take the engine to pieces* (=separate it into parts) *to see what's wrong with it.* | *It just fell to pieces in my hands.* (=came apart) **b** (*usu. in comb.*) an object or person forming part of a set: *a 36-piece dinner service* | *an 80-piece orchestra* (=one with 80 players or instruments) **3** [C] any of a set of small round objects or figures used in playing certain board games, esp. CHESS: *Which piece moves diagonally?* **4** [C] something whole and complete made by an ARTIST or other skilful person: *This is one of Rodin's finest pieces.* (=STATUES) | *This piece* (=of music) *should be played very slowly.* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] a short written statement in a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *Did you see the piece in the paper about Mrs Smith's accident?* **6** [C] a coin, esp. of the stated value: *a 50-penny piece* | *a ten-cent piece* | *30 pieces of silver* **7** [(the) S] an amount of work (to be) done: *We pay our workers by the piece here, not by the time they take to do the work.* —see also PIECEWORK **8** (all) in one piece *infml* a (of a thing) undamaged; still whole **b** (of a person) unharmed, esp. after an accident: *She was lucky to survive the crash all in one piece.* **9** give someone a piece of one's mind *infml* to tell someone angrily what one thinks of them: *I'm going to give that little rascal a piece of my mind when I catch him!* **10** go (all) to pieces *infml* to lose the ability to think or act clearly because of fear, sorrow, etc.: *Under the pressure*

of police questioning she went to pieces and confessed everything. **11** of a piece: a like each other in character: *They're all of a piece.* **b** in agreement: *His action is of a piece with what he has been saying he will do for the past few months.* **12** piece by piece one by one; one part at a time **13** pull someone/something to pieces to say or show that someone/something is worthless by pointing at the weak points or faults: *The committee pulled my proposal to pieces.* **14** say one's piece to say what one wants to or has planned to say, esp. in a way that is annoying or unwelcome to others: *I've said my piece, so I'll be going now.* —see also MUSEUM PIECE, PARTY PIECE, SET PIECE, the villain of the piece (VILLAIN)

piece² v

piece sthg. ↔ together *phr v* [T] to make (something, esp. a story or an account of events) complete by gradually finding all the parts and adding them to each other: *The detectives tried to piece together the facts.*

pièce de résistance /pi:es də reziz:'stɑ:ns/ *n* pièces de résistance (same pronunciation) *Fr* the best or most important thing or event among a number, esp. one that comes or is shown after all the others

piece-meal /'pi:smi:l/ *adj, adv* (done, made, etc.) bit by bit; only one part at a time: *The college buildings were put together piecemeal.*

piece of cake /'i: - 'i:/ *n* [S] *infml* something very easy to do: *That exam was a piece of cake!*

piece of eight /'i: - 'i:/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] (esp. in stories) a silver coin formerly used in Spain. In humorous stories about PIRATES, the pirate often has a PARROT on his shoulder who says "pieces of eight" repeatedly.

piece of work /'i: - 'i:/ *n* **1** something made or done, esp. of the stated quality: *This watch is a fine piece of work.* **2** *infml* someone who is disliked or disapproved of in the stated way: *Look out for him; he's a nasty piece of work.*

piece rate /'i: - 'i:/ *n* a fixed amount of money paid for each thing that a worker produces: *dressmakers working on a piece rate*

piece-work /'pi:swɜ:k||-wɜ:rk/ *n* [U] work paid for by the amount done rather than by the hours worked

pie chart /'i: - 'i:/ *n* a circle divided into several parts that shows the way in which something, such as a population or an amount of money, is divided up: *The students drew up a pie chart of government spending/the racial composition of their school/the uses of local land.* —see picture at CHART

pie-crust /'pai-kɾɒst/ *n* [C;U] the baked pastry of a PIE

pie'd /paɪd/ *adj* [A] (esp. of certain types of bird) irregularly coloured with two or more colours, esp. black and white: *a pied wagtail*

pied-à-terre /'pi:əd æ 'teə||pi:əd æ: 'teə/ *n* pieds-à-terre (same pronunciation) *Fr* a small set of rooms or second home which one keeps for use when needed: *They live in the country but they've got a pied-à-terre in London.*

the Pied Piper



Pied Pip-er /'i: - 'i:/ *n* **1** [the] the main character in an old fairy story about a man who freed the town of Hamelin in Germany from rats by playing his FLUTE and making the rats follow him to the river and drown. When he was not paid for this job, the Pied Piper led away all the town's children too. **2** a person who attracts followers: *a great leader, a Pied Piper of politics*

pie-eyed /'pai 'aid-/ *adj infml, usu. humor* drunk

pier /piə/ *n* **1** a bridgelike structure of wood, metal, etc., built out into the sea at places where people go for

holidays, with small buildings on it where people can eat and amuse themselves: *Brighton pier* | *a variety show on the end of the pier* —compare BOARDWALK **2** a similar structure at which boats can stop to take in or land their passengers or goods, usu. larger than a JETTY **3** a thick post of stone, wood, metal, etc., esp. as used to support a bridge or the roof of a high building

pierce /piəs||piərs/ *v* [T] *rather fml* **1** to make a hole in or through (something) with a point: *The nurse pierced the skin covering his vein with the syringe and injected the medicine.* | *Many women have got pierced ears.* (=holes made in their ears for EARRINGS) | (fig.) *He couldn't pierce (=find a way through) her unfriendly manner.* **2** (of light, sound, pain, etc.) to be suddenly seen, heard, or felt in or through (someone or something): *The first shafts of sunlight pierced the gloom.* | *A sudden scream pierced the silence.* —compare PENETRATE

Pierce, Franklin (1804–69) the 14th president of the US (1853–57)

piercing /'piəsɪŋ||'piər-/ *adj* **1** (of wind) very strong and cold; BITING **2** (of sound) very sharp and clear, esp. in an unpleasant way: *A piercing cry rang out across the moor.* | *a very piercing voice* **3** going straight to the centre or the main point; PENETRATING: *a piercing look/question* | *piercing blue eyes* —~ly *adv*

Pierrot /'piərɒt/ a silent PANTOMIME character, usu. a fool or musician with a sad white face and loose, white, fancy clothes

Piers Plowman /,piəz 'pləʊmən||,piərz-/ a religious poem written in Middle English by William Langland (1330?–86)

pie-ty /'paɪəti/ also **piousness**— *n* [U] *fml* the showing and feeling of deep respect for God and religion —opposite **impiety**; see also **PIOUS**

piezo-electric /,pi:zəʊ-ɪ'lektrɪk-, ,pi:tsəʊ-||pi,eizəʊ-/ *adj* worked by electricity produced by pressure on a small piece of a certain type of stone (CRYSTAL): *a piezoelectric cigarette lighter*

pif-ble /'pɪfəl/ *n* [U] *BrE infml, old-fash* foolish talk; nonsense

pif-ling /'pɪflɪŋ/ *adj* *BrE infml* useless; meaningless; TRIVIAL: *some piffling excuse or other*

pig /pɪɡ/ *n* **1** || also **hog** *AmE*— a fat short-legged animal with a usu. curly tail and thick skin with short stiff hairs, often kept on farms for its meat. Pigs are usu. thought to be GREEDY, dirty, and noisy. —see also GUINEA PIG; see MEAT (USAGE) **2** *infml derog* a an unpleasant person, esp. one who eats too much, behaves in an offensive way, or refuses to consider others: *You greedy pig!* | *He made a (real) pig of himself at the restaurant.* **b** something difficult or nasty: *This passage is a real pig to translate.* **3** *derog sl* a policeman **4** a **pig in a poke** *infml* something one has bought without seeing or examining it, and that one may then find to be worthless **5** **make a pig's ear of** *infml, esp. BrE* to do something awkwardly or wrongly: *I'd been practising the speech for days, but I made a real pig's ear of it anyway.* **6** **Pigs might fly** || **If pigs could fly we could shoot for bacon!** *esp. humor* What you have just said is not possible: *"The management might offer us a decent pay rise." "Pigs might fly!"* **7** **This little piggy went to market** the first line of an old poem for children, said while counting the child's toes

pig² v -gg- [I;T] to eat (food) greedily (GREEDY): *He's pigged all the cake!* | *We pigged ourselves on/with ice cream and jelly.*

pig out *phr v* [I (on)] *sl, esp. AmE* to eat food greedily (GREEDY) and in large amounts; gorge oneself (GORGE²): *We really pigged out last night. I feel sick!*

pi-geon /'pɪdʒɪn/ *n* **pigeons** or **pigeon** **1** [C] a fairly large grey short-legged bird

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Trafalgar Square in London is known as a place where people go to feed the pigeons, but they are generally disliked because of the mess they make. Farmers dislike them because of the amount of corn they eat, and in the country they are often shot and eaten. A tame pigeon that is taken away from its home will always fly back, and some people race them against each other to see which bird gets home first. ◀

2 [S] *BrE infml* someone's responsibility or affair: *It's not my pigeon — someone else can deal with it.* —see also **CAR-**

PIER PIGEON, CLAY PIGEON, put/set the cat among the pigeons (CAT), and see picture at **BIRD**

pigeon-chest-ed /,piːnˈtʃɛstəd/ *adj* (of a person) having a chest that is narrow and sticks out unnaturally

pi-geon-hole /'pɪdʒɪnhəʊl/ *n* **1** any of a set of boxlike divisions in a frame, e.g. on a wall or on top of a desk, for putting esp. papers or letters in **2** a neat division (of ideas, feelings, etc.) which separates things too simply: *You shouldn't put people in pigeonholes.*

pigeonhole ² *v* [T] **1** to put aside and keep for possible future use or attention; **SHELVE**: *That's a good idea, but we'll have to pigeonhole it until we know whether we can afford it.* **2** to put into the proper class or group: *It's the sort of job you can't pigeonhole — he seems to do different things every week.*

pigeon-toed /'piːnˈtoʊd/ *adj* (of a person) having the feet pointing inwards

pig-ge-ry /'pɪɡəri/ *n* **1** [C] a pig farm **2** [C] a PIGSTY(1) or a large building for pigs **3** [U] *derog* the behaviour of a PIG (2): *the supreme example of male chauvinist piggery*

pig-gish /'pɪɡɪʃ/ *adj* *derog* (of a person) like a pig, esp. in being dirty or eating too much —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

Pig-gott /'pɪɡət/, **Les-ter** /'lestər/ (1935–) an English JOCKEY (=a person who rides horses in races), regarded by many as the best there has ever been. He won over 4000 races, including the Derby 8 times. He was imprisoned in 1987 for not paying his taxes, and began racing again in 1990.

pig-gy /'pɪɡi/ *n* *infml* **1** (used esp. by or to children) a (little) pig **2** **piggy in the middle** *esp. BrE* someone who is caught between two opposing sides but is unable to influence either of them (from the ball game in which one person tries to catch the ball as it is thrown between two others)

piggy ² *adj infml derog* **1** (esp. of a child) GREEDY **2** like a pig: *little piggy eyes*

pig-gy-back /'pɪɡɪbæk/ *n* a ride on someone else's back or shoulders, esp. given to a child: *Give me a piggyback!* —**piggyback** *adv*

pig-gy-bank /'pɪɡɪbæŋk/ *n* a small container, often in the shape of a pig, used by children for saving coins

pig-head-ed /,pɪɡ'hedɪd-/ *adj* *derog* determinedly holding to an opinion or course of action in spite of argument, reason, etc.; STUBBORN —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

pig i-ron /'piː,ɪrən/ *n* [U] an impure form of iron obtained directly from a BLAST FURNACE

pig-let /'pɪɡlɪt/ *n* a young pig

Piglet a loyal friend of Pooh Bear in stories by A. A. Milne. Piglet looks a little like a small pig, but he walks on two legs and has no tail.

pig-ment /'pɪgmənt/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) dry coloured powder that is mixed with oil, water, etc., to make paint **2** [U] natural colouring matter of plants and animals, such as in leaves, hair, skin, etc.

pig-men-ta-tion /,pɪgmən'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the spreading of colouring matter in parts of living things **2** the colouring of living things

pig-my /'pɪɡmi/ *n* a PYGMY

pig-pen /'pɪɡpen/ *n* *AmE* for PIGSTY

Pigpen *n* a character in the Peanuts COMIC STRIP, who is very dirty and always has a cloud of dirt all around him

Pigs, Bay of *n* see BAY OF PIGS

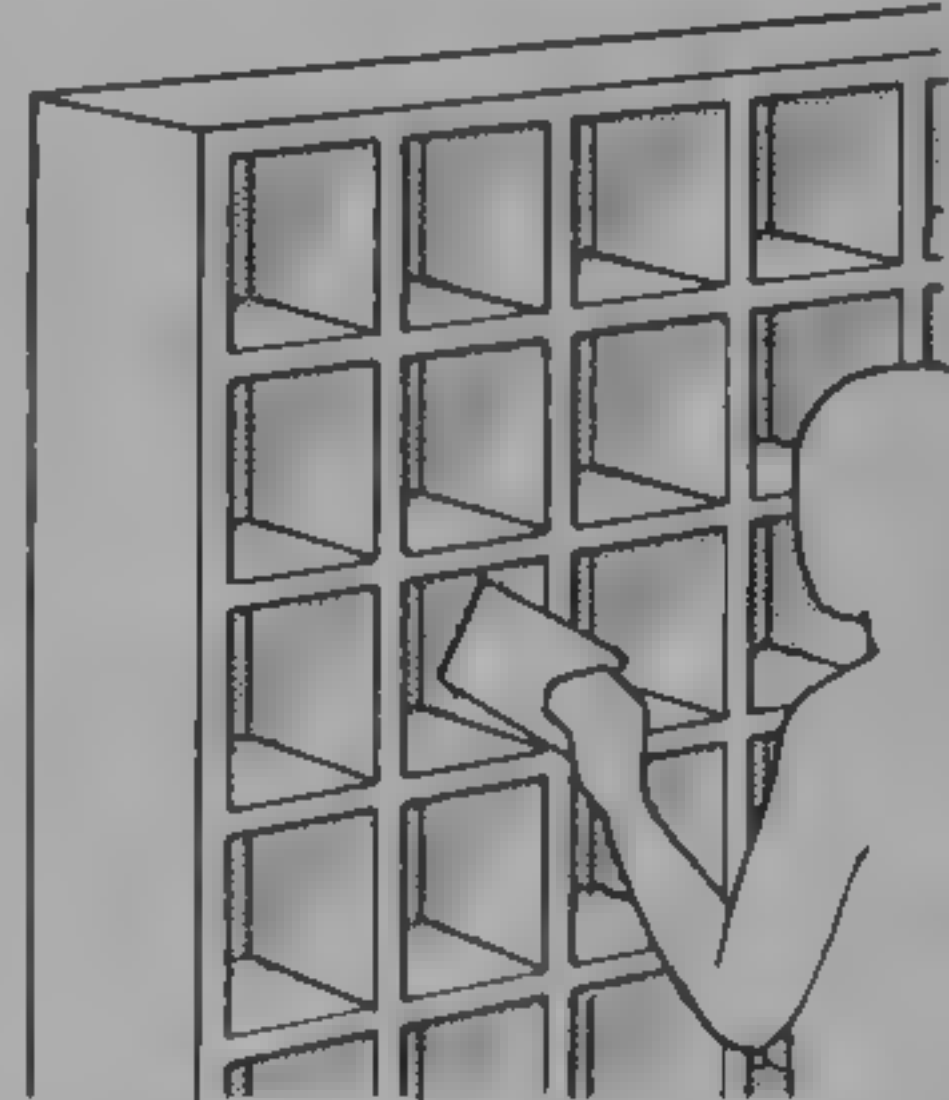
pig-skin /'pɪɡ,skɪn/ *n* [U] leather made from pig's skin: *a pigskin bag*

pig's trot-ters /,piː,ˈtrɒtəz/ *n* [P] pigs' feet, cooked and eaten as food

pig-sty /'pɪɡstai/ also **pig-pen** *esp. AmE*— *n* **1** also **sty**—an enclosure with a small building in it, where pigs are kept **2** *derog* a very dirty room or house, esp. that is also in bad repair: *How can you live in this pigsty?*

pig-swill /'pɪɡ,swɪl/ *n* [U] **1** waste food, such as vegetable

pigeonhole



skins, given to pigs **2 derog** tasteless or bad-tasting food

pig-tail /'pɪɡteɪl/ **n** **1** one of two bunches of hair worn on either side of the face, either plaited (PLAIT²) or loose, esp. by young girls: *a little girl with her hair in pigtails*. **2 BrE** || **braid AmE**— a length of hair that has been twisted together in a short PLAID and hangs down the back of the neck and shoulders, esp. worn by young girls—compare PONYTAIL — **~ed adj**

pike /paɪk/ **n** **pikes** or **pike** a large fish-eating fish that lives in rivers and lakes

pike² **n** a long-handled spear formerly used by soldiers fighting on foot — **~man** /mən/ **n**

pike³ **n** a TURNPIKE

Pike, Zeb-u-lon /'zebjuːlən/ (1779–1813) an American army general and EXPLORER

Pike's Peak /, - ' / a mountain in the Rockies, Colorado, US

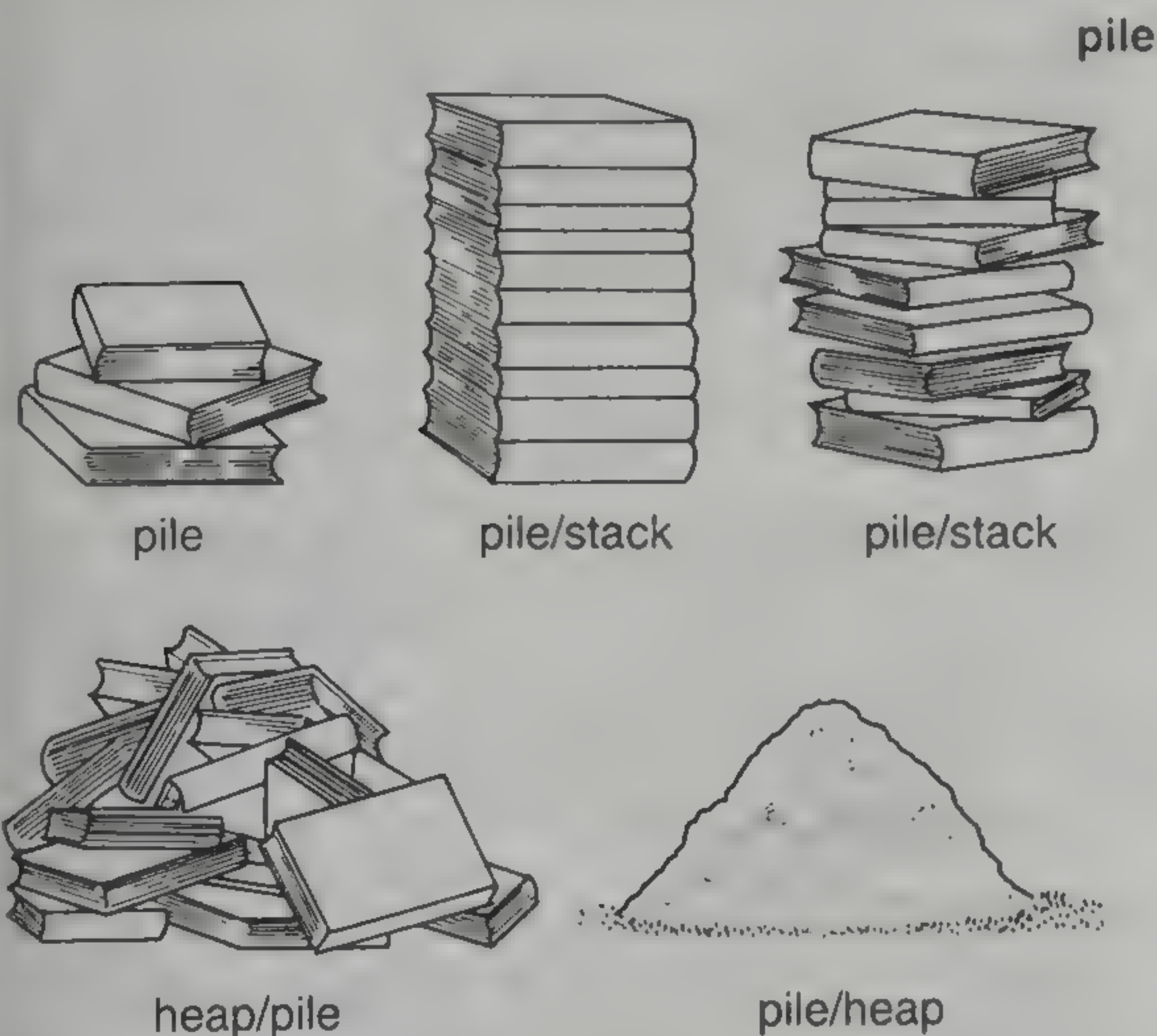
pike-staff /'paɪkstɑːf/ || -stæf/ **n** the long wooden handle of a PIKE² —see also **as plain as a pikestaff** (PLAIN¹)

pi-laf, **pilaff** /'pɪləf/ || pɪ 'lɑːf/ also **pi-lau** /'pɪləu/ || pɪ 'ləu/ — **n** [C;U] (often in comb.) a dish made from rice and sometimes vegetables, and often served with meat: *chicken pilaf*

pi-las-ter /pɪ 'læstə/ **n** a square post that usu. sticks out only partly beyond the wall of a building and is usu. only decorative

Pi-late /'paɪlət/, **Pon-tius** /'pɒnfəs, 'pɒntɪəs/ || 'pɔːntɪəs/ (1st century) the Roman governor of Judaea at the time when Jesus Christ was tried and put to death. According to the Bible, Pilate offered to free Jesus, but the Jewish leaders would not accept this. Pilate washed his hands and said that he was not to blame for Jesus's death. People mention Pilate when they are talking about a person who is not strong enough to do what they think is right.

pil-chard /'pɪltʃəd/ || -ərd/ **n** a small sea fish like the HERRING, often preserved in tins as food



pile /paɪl/ **n** **1** [(of)] a tidy collection of objects, esp. when made of a number of things of the same kind placed on top of each other: *a pile of books/plates* | *We put the newspapers in piles on the floor*. —see USAGE **2** a PYRE **3** [(of)] also **piles pl.** — *infml* a lot: *I've got piles of work to do today*. **4** [usu. sing.] *infml* a very large amount of money; fortune: *He made a/his pile and retired to the Bahamas*. **5** *pomp* a large tall building or group of buildings: *They live in a rambling Victorian pile*. —see also PILES, ATOMIC PILE

▷ USAGE Compare **pile**, **stack**, and **heap**, which can all mean “a mass of things placed one on top of the other”. A **pile** is a usually tidy collection of objects, usually of the same kind: *a pile of books/papers/leaves*. A **stack** is a carefully arranged **pile** usually made up of a lot of things of the same shape and size: *a stack of books/coins/cassettes*. A **heap** is a large disorderly **pile** of things, not necessarily of the same kind: *a heap of toys/books/dirty washing*. Both **pile** and **heap** can also be used with uncountable nouns: *a pile/heap of sand/straw/manure*. ◁

pile² **v** **1** [T (on, UP)] to make a pile of: *He piled the boxes one on top of the other*. | *The little boy was piling up his building blocks*. **2** [T (onto, with)] to fill or cover plentifully; load: *He piled the spaghetti onto his plate*. | *The cart was piled high with fruit and vegetables*. **3** [I+adv/prep] *infml* (of people) to come or go in a (disorderly) crowd: *He opened the doors and they all piled in*. | *The boat arrived and hordes of children piled off*.

pile on *phr v infml* **1** **pile it on** to say too much; EXAGGERATE: *She was trying to impress the interviewer, so she really piled it on*. | *Giving someone a compliment is one thing, but you were piling it on!* **2** **pile on the agony** to enjoy making something seem worse than it really is

pile up *phr v* [I] **1** to form into a mass or large quantity; ACCUMULATE: *My work is piling up*. | *The clouds are piling up*. **2** (of a number of vehicles) to crash into each other —see also PILEUP

pile³ **n** [C;U] the soft surface of short threads on CARPETS and some cloths, esp. VELVET: *a deep pile carpet* —compare NAP³

pile⁴ **n** a heavy wooden, metal, or CONCRETE post hammered upright into the ground as a support for a building, bridge, etc.

pile driver /'paɪldrɪvə/ **n** **1** a machine for hammering PILES⁴ into the ground **2** *infml* a very hard blow (PUNCH), esp. in BOXING

piles /paɪlz/ **n** [P] *infml* for HAEMORRHOIDS. Piles are often treated by non-sufferers as a rather humorous complaint.

pile-up /'paɪləp/ **n** *infml* a traffic accident in which a number of vehicles crash into each other: *a bad pileup on the motorway* —see also PILE² up (2)

pil-fer /'pɪlfə/ **v** [I;T] to steal (small amounts or things of little value): *He was found pilfering from other children's desks*. | *Petty pilfering is on the increase in department stores*. — **~er n**

pil-grim /'pɪlgrɪm/ **n** a person who travels esp. a long way to a holy place as an act of religious love and respect

pil-grim-age /'pɪlgrɪmɪdʒ/ **n** [C;U (to)] (a) journey made by a pilgrim: *Aziz is planning to go on/make a pilgrimage to Mecca*. | (fig.) *Many music-lovers make pilgrimages to Mozart's birthplace*.

Pilgrim Fathers /, - ' / also **Pilgrims** — [the+P] the group of English PURITANS who sailed to America to escape from England and make a new kind of society based on their religious beliefs. They arrived on their ship *Mayflower* at Plymouth, Massachusetts, US in 1620 —compare FOUNDING FATHER and see colour picture on page 1015

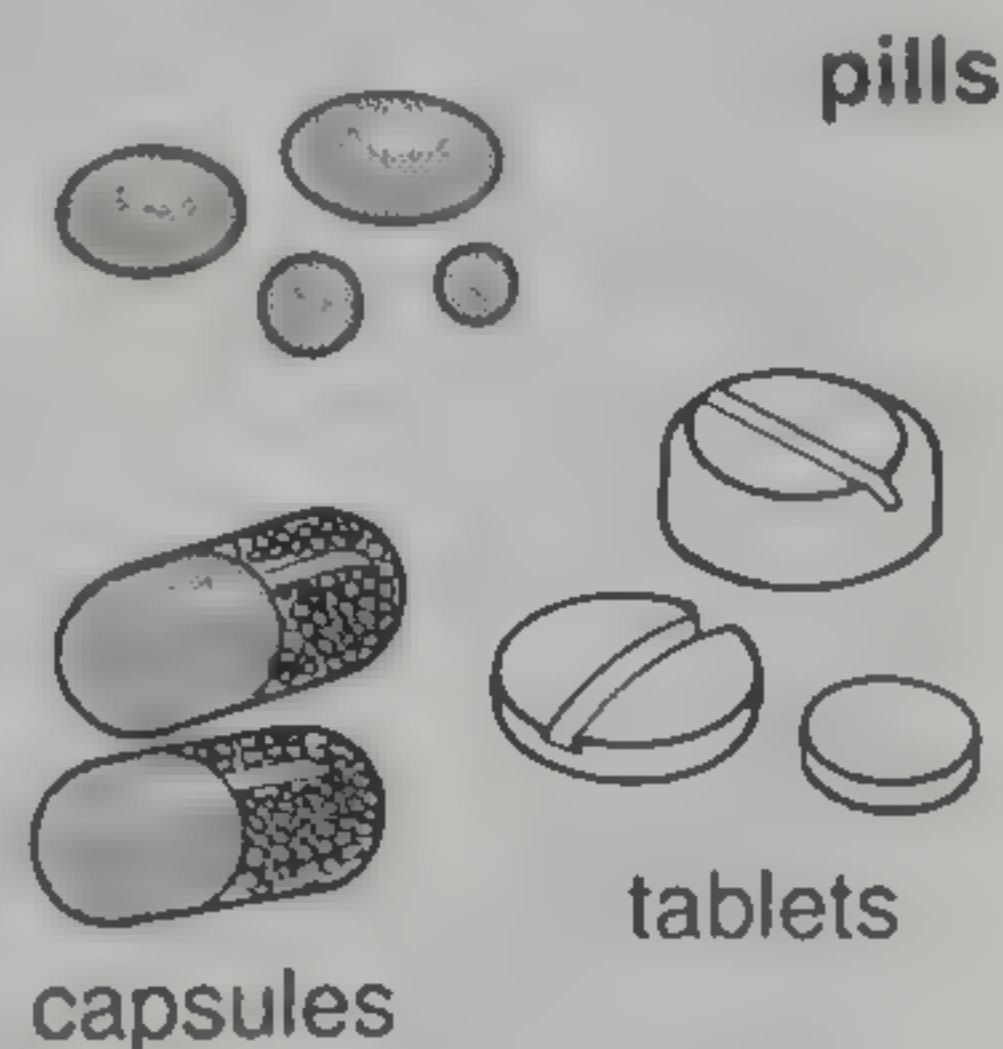
Pilgrim's Progress /, - ' /, **The** a book by the 17th century English writer John Bunyan. It is an ALLEGORY of the difficult journey of the human soul through life to Heaven. The main character, Christian, leaves his family and travels through the **Slough of Despond**, the **Valley of the Shadow of Death**, **Vanity Fair**, the land of **Beulah**, etc. meeting many dangers, until he reaches the **Celestial City**. Later his wife and children follow him.

Pilgrim's Way /, - ' / [the] the name of an old path from Winchester to Canterbury, which religious PILGRIMS travelled along in the past

Pil-king-ton /'pɪlkɪŋtən/ a British company which specializes in glass products

pill /pɪl/ **n** **1** [C] a small solid piece of medicine, made to be swallowed whole: *to take (=swallow) a sleeping pill* —see also **a bitter pill** (to swallow) (BITTER), MORNING-AFTER PILL, **sugar the pill** (SUGAR²) **2** [the+S] (often cap.) a pill taken regularly, usu. every day, by women as a means of birth control: *Is she on the pill?* (=taking the pill) | *She went on/came off the pill on her doctor's advice*.

► CULTURAL NOTE The Pill was the first method of CONTRACEPTION that was simple, reliable, and not difficult to use. Although there have been health problems associated with taking the Pill, and some women cannot use it at all, it is the most popular method in most Western countries. Because its use is controlled by the woman herself, making her able to choose when, or whether, to have children,



it has helped to change women's attitude to themselves and their place in the world, e.g. by enabling a woman to delay having children until she is established in a career. It has also increased the freedom of unmarried people to have sex, and some people blame the Pill for what they regard as the evils of the PERMISSIVE SOCIETY. ◀

pil-lage¹ /'pɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] *old use* the act of pillaging

pillage² *v* [I;T] *old use* to steal things violently from (a place taken in war); **PLUNDER**: *The Vikings raped and pillaged all along the coast.* —compare **LOOT** —**lager** *n*

pil-lar /'pɪlə/ *n* **1** a tall upright round post made usu. of stone **a** used as a support for a roof: *the graceful pillars of the Roman Forum* **b** standing alone in memory of some person or event **2** [(of)] something tall, narrow, and upright: *a pillar of smoke* **3** [(of)] *apprec* an important member and active supporter: *a pillar of the community/church* **4** **(be driven) from pillar to post** (to be chased or hunted) from one place or difficulty to another —compare **COLUMN**¹

pillar box /'pɪləbɒks/ *n* (in Britain) a large tube-shaped type of **POSTBOX** that stands in the street and is usu. painted red —compare **LETTERBOX**, **POST**² (3)

pillar of salt /'pɪlə ɒv 'sɔːlt/ *n* **pillars of salt** a rock-like upright piece of salt. In the Bible, Lot's wife is said to have become a pillar of salt after she disobeyed advice and looked back on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Pillars of Her-cu-les /'pɪləz ɒv 'hɜːkləs/ [the +P] the two pieces of high land coming out into the water on either side of the Strait of Gibraltar which in former times marked the end of the civilized world at the western end of the Mediterranean and which, in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, were separated by Hercules

pill-box /'pɪlbɒks/ *n* **1** a small round box for holding **PILLS** (1) **2** a small usu. circular **CONCRETE** shelter with a gun inside it, built as a defence esp. along a shore

pil-lion /'pɪljən/ *n* a seat for a second person on a motorcycle, placed behind the driver: *a pillion passenger* | *He was riding pillion.* (=on the pillion)

pil-lock /'pɪlək/ *n* *BrE sl* a foolish worthless person

pil-lo-ry¹ /'pɪləri/ *n* a wooden post with a bar at the top into which in former times the neck and wrists of wrongdoers were locked as a public punishment —compare **STOCKS** (1)

pillory² *v* [T] **1** to attack with words, esp. so as to cause to be treated with disrespect by the public: *The education secretary was pilloried in the press for his ridiculous decision.* **2** to punish by putting in a pillory

pil-low¹ /'pɪləʊ/ *n* **1** a cloth bag, usu. longer than it is wide, filled with a soft substance such as feathers and used for supporting the head in bed: *The children were having a marvellous pillow fight.* (=hitting each other with pillows) —compare **CUSHION**¹ (1) **2** any object used for supporting the head, esp. while sleeping: *She used her saddlebag as a pillow.* —see also **PILLOW TALK**

pillow² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to rest (esp. one's head) on something, esp. in order to go to sleep: *She pillowed her head on his shoulder.*

pil-low-case /'pɪləʊkeɪs/ also **pillow slip** /'pɪləʊslɪp/ *n* a baglike cloth covering for a pillow

pillow talk /'pɪləʊtɔːk/ *n* [U] *infml* conversation in bed between lovers

Pills-bu-ry /'pɪlzbəri/ *n* an American maker of **PROCESSED FOODS** and flour. Their advertising personality is a small man made of **DOUGH**, called the **Pillsbury Doughboy**.

pi-lot¹ /'paɪlət/ *n* **1** a person who controls an aircraft or spacecraft, esp. one who has been specially trained: *an airline pilot* **2** a person with a special knowledge of a particular stretch of water, esp. the entrance to a **HARBOUR**, who is employed to go on board and guide ships that use it: *a harbour pilot* **3** a television programme which is made to see if people like it and whether they would watch such a programme regularly if it were on

every week —see also **AUTOMATIC PILOT**, **drop the pilot** (**DROP**¹)

pilot² *v* [T] **1** to act as pilot of (an aircraft, spacecraft, or ship) —see **BOAT (USAGE)**, **DRIVE (USAGE)**, **PLANE (USAGE)** **2** [+obj+adv/prep, esp. **through**] to help and guide; show the way: *She piloted the old man through the crowd to his seat.* | (fig.) *The minister has piloted several useful bills through Parliament.* (=made sure they came successfully through and were made into laws)

pilot³ *adj* [A] acting as a trial for something: *We're doing a pilot survey on this product; if it sells well, we'll go into full production.* | *a pilot scheme*

pilot light /'pɪlət laɪt/ *n* **1** also **pilot burn-er** /'pɪlət bɜːn-er/ a small gas flame kept burning all the time, used for lighting larger gas burners when the gas in them is turned on **2** a small electric light on a piece of electrical apparatus that shows when it is turned on

pilot of-fi-cer /'pɪlət ɒf-ɪ-sər/ *n* an airforce rank —see **TABLE 3**

Pilt-down Man /'pɪltdaʊn 'mæn/ a supposed race of early people, bones of whom were thought to have been found in England in 1912. Later tests proved that the bones were not old and it was decided that Pilt-down Man never existed.

Pi-ma /'pi:mə/ *n* [C; the + P] (a member of) a Native American people living in Arizona, US —see **NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)**

pi-men-to /pɪ'mentəʊ/ *n* -tos or -to [C;U] a small **PEPPER**¹ (2), often used for putting inside **OLIVES**

Pim-li-co /'pɪmlɪkəʊ/ an area of London N of the Thames and SW of the City

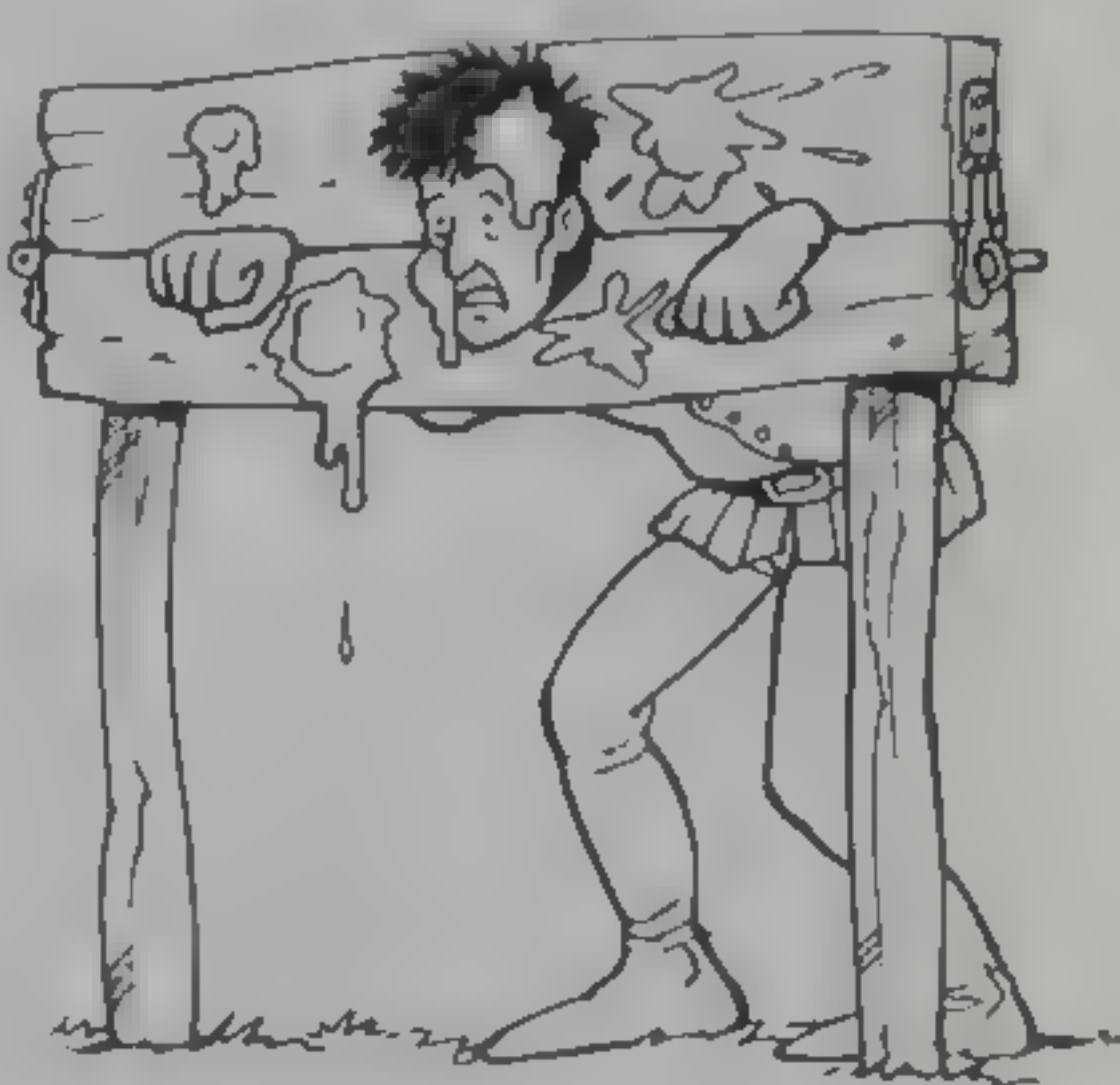
Pimms /pɪmz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a make of alcoholic drink based usu. on **GIN**, called in full **Pimms Number One Cup**. Pimms is often drunk in summer at fashionable and/or **UPPER-CLASS** events such as the Henley Regatta or Wimbledon.

pimp /pɪmp/ *n* a man who controls and makes a profit from the activities of **PROSTITUTES** —**pimp** *v* [I (for)]

pim-per-nel /'pɪmpənəl/ *n* a small low-growing wild plant with flowers that are blue, white, or esp. **SCARLET**

pim-ple /'pɪmpəl/ also **spot** *BrE* *n* a small raised infected spot on the skin (esp. of the face), usu. containing **PUS** —see also **GOOSE FLESH** —**pled** *adj* —**ply** *adj*: *pimpley skin* | *a pimpley youth*

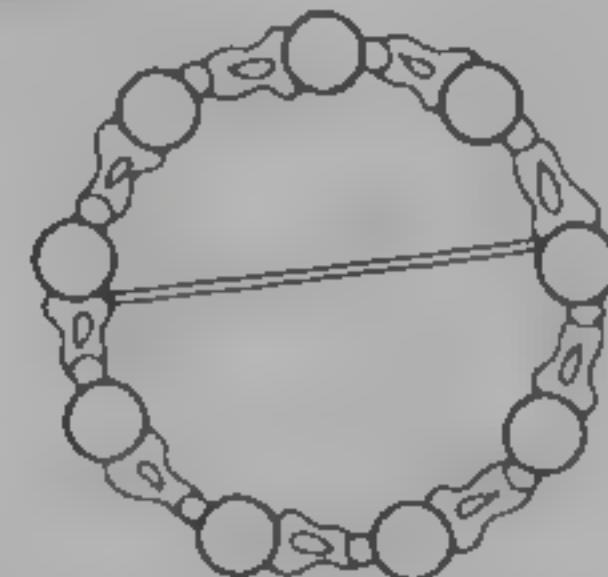
pillory



pins



pin



brooch/pin *AmE*



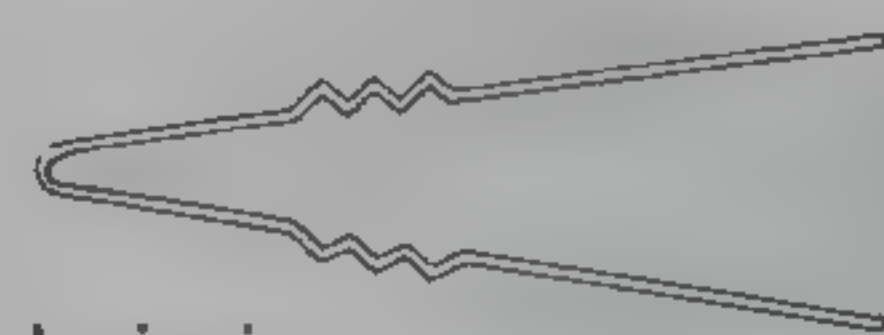
safety pin



tie pin



drawing pin *BrE*
thumbtack *AmE*



hairpin



bobbypin *AmE*
hairgrip *BrE*

pin¹ /pɪn/ *n* **1** a short thin piece of metal that looks like a small nail, used for fastening together pieces of cloth, paper, etc., used e.g. when making clothes —see also **PIN-CUSHION** **2** (often in comb.) a quite short thin piece of metal, pointed at one end and with a decoration at the other, used esp. as a form of jewellery: *a hat pin* | *a tie pin* **3** *AmE* for **BROOCH** **4** a short piece of wood or metal used as a support, for fastening things together, etc.; **PEG**: *The doctor put a steel pin in his wrist.* **5** [usu. pl.] *BrE infml* a leg: *He's a bit unsteady on his pins.* **6** any of the bottle-shaped objects which a player tries to knock down by rolling a ball at them in the game of **BOWLING**: *He knocked down four pins with his first ball.* **7** *BrE* for **two pins infml** without needing to be persuaded very hard: *He's just stepped on my clean floor — for two pins I'd hit him!* —see also **DRAWING PIN**, **NINEPINS**, **PINS AND NEEDLES**, **ROLLING PIN**, **SAFETY PIN**

pin² *v* -nn- [T+obj+adv/prep] **1** to fasten or join with a pin or pins: *She pinned the front and back pieces of the dress together and tried it on for size.* | *She pinned the notice to the board.* | *He pinned the medal on the soldier's chest.* **2** to keep in one position, esp. by weight from above: *The wrestler pinned his opponent to the canvas.* | *In the accident she was pinned under the car.* **3** **Pin your 'ears back!** *infml, esp. BrE* Listen carefully!

pin sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (to)] **1** to force to give clear details, make a firm decision, etc.; **NAIL down:** *I won't pin you down to a particular day; just come whenever you're free.* **2** to know or understand clearly (who or what something is); **IDENTIFY:** *We know there is corruption in the organization but it is difficult to pin it down.*

pin sthg. on sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** to fix (guilt, blame, etc.) on: *Don't try and pin the blame on me; I didn't do it!* **2** **pin one's hopes on someone** to depend on someone or something for success, help, a favour, etc.

PIN /pɪn/ *also* **PIN number** *n* personal identification number; a special number which is only known to the owner of a special card and which allows the owner to use his card to get money from a CASH POINT (=a machine which gives money from one's bank account). PIN numbers are kept secret so that a thief who steals the card cannot use it to get money.

pi-ña col-a-da /,pi:njə kəʊ'la:də/ *n* [C;U] *Sp* (a glass of) an alcoholic drink made from COCONUT juice, PINEAPPLE juice, and RUM

pin-a-fore /'pɪnəfɔːr/ *n* *BrE* **1** *also* **pinny** *infml*— a loose garment that does not cover the arms or usu. the back, worn over a dress to keep it clean **2** *also* **pinfore dress** /'...-/ *BrE* || **jumper** *AmE*— a dress that does not cover the arms, and under which a BLOUSE or other garment is worn

pin-ball /'pɪnbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game played on a machine with a sloping board down which a rolling ball is guided by various means: *a pinball machine*

pince-nez /,pæns 'neɪ, 'pɪns-/ *n* **pince-nez** /-'neɪz/ [C+*sing./pl. v*] glasses, used esp. in former times, that are held in position on the nose by a spring, instead of by pieces fitting round the ears —see **PAIR** (USAGE)

pin-cer /'pɪnsəːr/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] either of the pair of footlike parts, made up of two pieces of pointed shell-like material, at the end of the legs of a CRAB, LOBSTER, etc., used for taking hold of food —see also **PINCERS**, and see picture at **LOBSTER** — ~ **like** *adj*

pincer move-ment /'...-/ *n* an attack by two groups of soldiers advancing from opposite directions to trap the enemy between them

pin-cers /'pɪnsəz||-ərz/ *n* [P] a tool made of two crossed pieces of metal with curved parts at one end, used for holding tightly and pulling small things, such as a nail from wood —compare **PLIERS**; see **PAIR** (USAGE), and see picture at **TOOL**

pinch¹ /pɪntʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to press (esp. a person's flesh) tightly and usu. painfully between two hard surfaces or between the thumb and a finger: *He pinched his fingers in the car door.* | *She pinched me on the arm.* | *I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming.* | *Stop pinching (me)!* **2** [I] to give pain by being too tight: *Don't buy the shoes if they pinch.* **3** [T] *infml* to take without permission; steal: *My car's been pinched!* **4** [T (with) *usu. pass.*] **a** to cause pain to: *They came in pinched with cold and hunger.* **b** to make (the face) thin or tired-looking: *Her face was pinched and drawn with anxiety.* **5** [T (for) *often pass.*] *infml* for **ARREST**¹ (1): *She got pinched for speeding.* **6** **pinch and scrape** to spend only what is necessary (or even less) —see also **PENNY PINCHER**

pinch² *n* **1** [C] an act of pinching someone: *She gave him a pinch to wake him up.* | *a playful/spiteful pinch* **2** [C (of)] an amount that can be picked up between the thumb and a finger: *a pinch of salt/snuff* —see picture at **PIECE** **3** [*the*+S] suffering caused by lack of necessary things, esp. money: *It's six months since he lost his job, so he's beginning to feel the pinch.* **4** **at a pinch** *BrE* || **in a pinch** *AmE*— if necessary: *It's more than I really want to spend, but at a pinch I suppose I could manage £60.* —see also **take something with a pinch of salt** (SALT¹)

pinched /pɪntʃt/ *adj* [F (for)] without enough (money);

SHORT¹ (4): *We're rather pinched (for money) these days.* —see also **PINCH**² (3)

pin-cush-ion /'pɪn,kʊʃən/ *n* a filled bag like a small CUSHION into which PINS are stuck until they are needed, used esp. by dressmakers

pin-down /'pɪndaʊn/ *n* [U] (in Britain) a method of dealing with difficult children in special homes for them which was judged to be against the law. It involved separating the children from others, allowing them to wear few clothes, and giving them little food.

pine¹ /paɪn/ *n* **1** [C] *also* **pine-tree**— a tall tree with thin sharp leaves (**pine needles**) that do not drop off in winter and woody fruits (**pinecones**), that grows esp. in colder parts of the world: *a pine forest* | *pine-fresh disinfectant* (=smelling of pine) —see picture at **TREE** **2** [U] the white or yellowish soft wood of this tree: *a pine table*

pine² *v* [I] **1** [(AWAY)] to become thin, less active, and lose strength and health slowly, through disease or esp. grief: *He pined away after his wife died.* **2** [(for)] to desire very strongly over a long period of time, and to grieve for: *The dog was pining for its dead master.* | *She pined for her lost love until he finally returned.* **3** [(for)] to have a strong desire, esp. that is impossible to fulfil: *They were pining for their homeland back in Europe.*

Pine, Court-ney /'kɔːtni||'kɔːr-/ (1964–) an English JAZZ musician and COMPOSER known esp. for playing the SAXOPHONE

pin-e-al gland /'pɪniəl glænd||'paɪn-/ *n* a small growth in the brain, the exact purpose of which is not known, but which may be sensitive to light in some way

pine-ap-ple /'paɪnæpəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] (the sweet juicy yellow flesh of) a large dark yellow tropical fruit with a mass of thin stiff leaves on top; pineapples are sold fresh or in tins: *pineapple rings/chunks* | *pineapple juice* —see picture at **FRUIT** **2** [C] *sl* for **HAND GRENADE**

pine mar-ten /'...-/ *n* a small European animal that lives in forests

pine nee-dles /'...-/ *n* the leaves of the pine tree, which are like needles (long, thin, and sharp)

pine straw /'...-/ *n* *AmE infml* dried, brown pine needles which have fallen to the ground. Pine straw becomes very deep in a pine forest.

pine-tree /'paɪntriː/ *n* a **PINE**¹ (1)

pine-wood /'paɪnwʊd/ *n* **1** [C] *also* **pinewoods** *pl.*— a pine forest **2** [U] the wood of the pine tree

Pinewood Stu-di-os /'...-/ *n* [*the* + P] a large film STUDIO (=place where films are made) near Slough, W of London, which opened in 1936

pin-ey /'paɪni/ *adj* **PINY**

ping¹ /pɪŋ/ *n* [S] *infml* a short sharp ringing sound, such as the sound made by hitting a glass with something hard

ping² *v* [I] **1** *infml* to make a ping: *a pinging sound* **2** *AmE* for **PINK**³

ping-pong /'...-/ *n* [U] *infml* for **TABLE TENNIS**

pin-head /'pɪnhed/ *n* **1** the head of a pin **2** *infml derog* a rather stupid person

pin-ion¹ /'pɪnjən/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to hold or tie up (the arms or legs) in order to prevent movement **2** [(to)] to prevent the movement of (a person or animal) by holding or tying up the arms or legs: *The wrestler pinioned his opponent to the floor.*

pinion² *n* a small wheel, with teeth on its outer edge, that fits into a larger wheel and turns it or is turned by it —compare **COGWHEEL**, **RACK**¹ (3)

pinion³ *n* **1** *poet* a bird's wing **2** *tech* the joint or part of a bird's wing furthest away from the body

pink¹ /pɪŋk/ *adj* **1** pale red: *salmon pink* | *a pink carnation/rose* **2** *often derog* giving some slight support to SOCIALIST political parties and ideas —compare **RED**¹ (1); see also **PINKO**, **tickled pink** (TICKLE¹)

pink² *n* **1** [C;U] a pale red colour

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Pink is often thought of as a colour for females. Girl babies are sometimes given pink clothes and boy babies, blue. ◀

2 [C] a garden plant with sweet-smelling pink, white, or red flowers **3** **in the pink** *usu. humor* in perfect health; very well

pink³ *BrE* || **ping** *AmE*— *v* [I] (of a car engine) to make

knocking sounds as a result of not working properly

pink-col-lar /,pɪŋk 'kɒlə/ *adj* esp. AmE of or concerning jobs of fairly low rank such as those of secretaries, waitresses (WAITRESS), typists (TYPIST), clerks, etc. that are usu. taken by women —compare WHITE COLLAR, BLUE-COLLAR

pink el-e-phant /,pɪŋk 'elɪfənt/ *n* [often pl.] *humor* an imaginary thing supposed to be seen by someone who is drunk

pink-eye /'pɪŋkaɪ/ *n* [U] *infml* for CONJUNCTIVITIS

Pink Floyd /,pɪŋk 'flɔɪd/ a British rock music group famous for its FUTURISTIC music. Its most well-known ALBUM is *The Wall*.

pink gin /,pɪŋk 'dʒɪn/ *n* [C;U] esp. BrE (a glass of) an alcoholic drink made of GIN, with ANGOSTURA added to give it a pink colour

pink-ie, **pinky** /'pɪŋki/ *n* ScotE or AmE the smallest finger of the human hand —see picture at HAND

pink-ing shears /'pɪŋkɪŋ 'ʃɪəz/ also **pinking scis-sors** /'pɪŋkɪŋ 'sɪzəz/ *n* [P] a special type of scissors with blades that have V-shaped teeth, used to cut cloth in such a way that the threads along the cut edge will not come out easily —see PAIR (USAGE)

pink-ish /'pɪŋkɪʃ/ *adj* slightly pink

pink-o /'pɪŋkəʊ/ *n* -oes or -os *infml derog* a person who gives some slight support to SOCIALIST political parties and ideas —compare RED²; see also PINK¹ (2)

Pink Pan-ther /,pɪŋk 'pæŋtə/ [the] **1** the name of the thief in humorous films about a police officer of middle rank called Inspector Clouseau, usu. played by Peter Sellers **2** a CARTOON character, based on this, who is really pink and really a PANTHER



Pink Panther

pink slip /,pɪŋk 'slɪp/ *n* AmE official notice from an employer that one's employment is ended: *We're going to give him the pink slip tomorrow.* —see MARCHING ORDERS, WALKING PAPERS

Pink-y and Perk-y /,pɪŋki ənd 'pɜːki/ -'pɜːr/ two pig PUPPETS that were popular on British children's television in the 1950s and 60s and are remembered esp. for singing songs in high squeaky voices

pin mon-ey /'pɪn 'məni/ *n* [U] *infml* a small amount of (additional) money that is earned, esp. by a married woman, and that can be spent on oneself, e.g. on clothes

pin-nace /'pɪnɪs/ *n* a small boat used for taking goods and esp. people to and from a ship —compare LIGHTER²

pin-na-ble /'pɪnəkəl/ *n* **1** [(of)] *usu. sing.* the highest point or degree: *She had reached the pinnacle of success/fame.* **2** esp. *lit* a pointed stone decoration like a small tower, built on a roof esp. in old churches and castles: *the towers and pinnacles of the ancient city*

pin-nate /'pɪneɪt/ *adj tech* (of a leaf) made of little leaves arranged opposite each other in two rows along a stem

Pin-no-chi-o /pɪ 'nɒkiəʊ/ a character from a story and film of the same name. Pinnochio was a boy PUPPET made of wood who came to life and whose nose grew longer when he told lies.

PIN num-ber /'pɪn 'nʌmbə/ *n* see PIN

pin-ny /'pɪni/ *n infml* for PINAFORE (1)

Pi-no-chet /'pi:nəʃet/ || 'pi:nəʃtʃet/, **Au-gus-to** /au'gʊstəʊ/ (1915–) a Chilean general who became president of the country after the elected government of Salvador Allende was removed in 1973. He was defeated and removed from office in 1989, but remains head of the armed forces.

piñ-on, **pinyon** /'piŋjən/ *n* [U;C] a short PINE tree common in western N America, which produces eatable seeds (PINON nuts)

pin-point¹ /'pɪnpɔɪnt/ *v* [T] **1** to find or describe exactly (the nature or cause of something): *Investigators are trying to pinpoint the causes of the crash.* **2** to show the exact position of: *Can you pinpoint it on the map for me?*

pinpoint² *n* [(of)] a very small area or point: *a pinpoint of light at the end of the tunnel*

pinpoint³ *adj* [A] **1** very exact: *The radar enables us to*

locate the target with pinpoint accuracy. **2** (of a TARGET to be hit by gunfire, bombs, etc.) very small, esp. as seen from a distance, and needing great care and exactness of aim

pin-prick /'pɪn,pɪk/ *n* **1** a small mark or hole made (as if) by a pin: *Don't make such a fuss; it's only a pinprick!* **2** something that causes slight annoyance or difficulty

pins and nee-dles /,pɪnz ənd 'niːdlɪz/ *n* [P] *infml* **1** slight continuous sharp pains in a part of the body, esp. a limb, to which the supply of blood is returning after having been stopped by pressure; pins and needles are usu. the result of sitting in one position for too long: *I've got pins and needles in my right leg.* **2** on pins and needles AmE in a state of anxious expectation

pin-stripe /'pɪnstreɪp/ *n* any of a number of thin usu. white lines repeated at regular spaces along usu. dark cloth to form a pattern —**striped** *adj*

pin-stripe suit /,pɪnstreɪp 'suːt/ *n* a suit made of cloth that has a pattern of pinstripes. There is a strong association in people's minds between pinstripe suits and men who work in London's financial institutions —see also CITY GENT

pint /paɪnt/ *n* **1** [(of)] a measure for liquids, esp. milk or beer: *a pint of milk* | *Two pints today, please.* (=on a note to the MILKMAN) —see TABLE 2, and see picture at LITRE **2** BrE *infml* a drink of beer of this amount: *We're going for a quick pint.* | *Let me buy you a pint.*

pint-a /'paɪntə/ *n* BrE *infml* a pint of milk. A well-known advertisement for milk in Britain said that people should "drink a pinta milk a day".

Pin-ta /'pɪntə/ one of the three ships which sailed to America with Christopher Columbus in 1492 —see also NINA, SANTA MARIA

pin-ta-ble /'pɪn,tetəbəl/ *n* BrE a machine for playing PINBALL

Pin-ter /'pɪntər/, **Harold** (1930–) a British writer best known for plays like *The Caretaker*, which show the strangeness of ordinary lives and family relationships

pin-to bean /'pɪntəʊ 'biːn/ *n* a small, light brown bean

pint-size /'pɪnt saɪz/ also **pint-sized** —*adj* *usu. derog* small and unimportant: *her pint-size boyfriend*

pin-up /'pɪnʌp/ *n* **1** a picture of an attractive or admired person, esp. of a woman wearing no clothes, esp. as stuck up on a wall by the admirer **2** the person in such a picture

pin-wheel /'pɪnwiːl/ *n* AmE for WINDMILL (2)

pin-y, **piney** /'paɪni/ *adj* like or containing PINE trees: *a piny smell*

Pin-yin /,pɪn 'jɪn/ *n* [U] a system of writing the Chinese language in the Roman alphabet officially recognized in China since 1958 and used in Western newspapers and other public documents

pin-yon /'pɪnjən/ *n* see PINON

pi-o-neer¹ /,paɪə'niə/ *n* **1** any of the first settlers in a new or unknown land, who are later followed by others: *log cabins built by the early pioneers* **2** [(of)] a person who does something first and so makes it possible or easier for others to do it later: *He was a pioneer of heart transplant operations.*

pioneer² *v* [T] to begin or help in the early development of: *This company pioneered the use of the silicon chip.*

pi-o-neer-ing /,paɪə'niəriŋ/ *adj* *apprec* introducing new ways of doing things, which others later follow: *She did pioneering work in the field of genetic engineering.* | *a pioneering firm* | *a pioneering novel*

pi-ous /'paɪəs/ *adj fml* **1** showing and feeling deep respect for God and religion —see also PIETY **2** *derog* pretending to have deep respect and sincere feelings: *Despite his pious expressions of regret, we could see that the outcome was quite satisfactory to him.* **3** [A] unlikely to be fulfilled: *I suppose some of them may not have been destroyed, but it's a rather pious hope.* —*~ly adv*

pi-ous-ness /'paɪəsənɪs/ *n* [U] PIETY

pip¹ /pɪp/ || *usu. seed* AmE —*n* a small fruit seed, esp. of an apple, orange, etc.: *He spat out the pips.* —compare STONE¹ (4), and see picture at FRUIT

pip² *n* a short high-sounding note, esp. as given on the radio to show the exact time, or as used in the operation of public telephones

pip³ *n* *infml* 1 any of the small marks on playing cards, DICE, and dominoes (DOMINO), showing their values 2 *BrE* any of the stars on the shoulders of the coats of army officers of certain ranks: *Captains have three pips.*

pip⁴ *v* -**pp**- [T] *BrE infml* to beat narrowly in a race, competition, etc.: *I nearly got the job, but I was piped at the post* (=right at the end of the choosing process) *by the other candidate.*

pip⁵ *n* [*the*+S] *old-fash infml, BrE* a feeling of annoyance or lack of cheerfulness: *This rainy weather really gives me the pip.*

pi-pal /'pi:pəl/ *n* a large Indian tree

pipe¹ /paɪp/ *n* 1 a tube used for carrying liquids or gas, often underground: *a gas/water/sewage pipe* | *a burst/blocked/broken pipe* | *to lay pipes under the road* | *to lag the pipes in the loft* 2 a small tube with a bowl-like container at one end, used for smoking tobacco: *He filled and lit his pipe.* | *He's a pipe-smoker.* | *the stem/bowl of a pipe* | *pipe tobacco* 3 a a simple tubelike musical instrument, played by blowing **b** any of the tubelike metal parts through which air is forced in an ORGAN 4 **Put 'that in your pipe and smoke it infml** You'll have to accept what I've just said, whether you like it or not —see also PIPES

pipe² *v* 1 [T (*into, to*) *often pass.*] to carry (esp. liquid or gas) through pipes: *Water is piped to all the houses.* 2 [I; T] *esp. lit* a (of a bird) to sing (high notes) **b** (of a person) to speak or sing in a high childish voice —see also PIPE UP 3 [T+*obj+adv/prep*] *tech* to welcome onto a ship by blowing a special whistle: *The admiral was piped aboard.* 4 [T (*with*)] to decorate (a dress, cake, etc.) with PIPING¹ (2b)

pipe down *phr v* [I] *infml* to stop talking or making a noise: *Pipe down! I'm trying to listen to the news.*

pipe up *phr v* [I] *infml* to begin to speak or sing, esp. unexpectedly and in a high voice: *The smallest child piped up with the answer.*

pipe and slip-pers /,pɪp · 'slɪp/ *n* [P] two things which it is thought a man enjoys after a hard day at work. They often appear in jokes and CARTOONS: *Shall I bring your pipe and slippers, dear?*

pipe clean-er /'pɪp · ,kli/ *n* a length of wire covered with soft threads, used to unblock the stem of a tobacco pipe. Pipe cleaners are also used by children to make shapes and models.

piped mu-sic /,pɪp · 'mju:zɪk/ also **canned music**— *n* [U] *often derog* quiet recorded music played continuously in a public place, such as a shop, hotel, or restaurant. The expression is often used as criticism by people who would prefer a higher quality of music or none at all. —see also ELEVATOR MUSIC, MUZAK

pipe dream /'pɪp · 'dri:m/ *n* an impossible hope, plan, idea, etc.: *His scheme for building a perpetual-motion machine is just a pipe dream.*

pipe fit-ter /'pɪp · 'fɪtə/ *n* 1 *BrE* a person who puts in and repairs PIPING¹ (1) 2 *AmE* for GAS FITTER

pipe-line /'paɪp-laɪn/ *n* 1 a line of connected pipes, often underground, esp. for carrying liquids or gas a long distance 2 **in the pipeline** about to happen but still in the process of being prepared or produced: *Some important changes in this law are now in the pipeline.*

pipe of peace /'pɪp · 'oʊ/ *n* a PEACE PIPE

pip-er /'paɪpə/ *n* a musician who plays on a PIPE¹ (3a) or BAGPIPES

pipe rack /'pɪp · 'ræk/ *n* a small frame for holding several tobacco pipes

Piper Al-pha /'pɪpə · 'æl/ an oil RIG in the North Sea which caught fire in 1988. 167 workers died in the fire. The accident caused criticism of safety standards on oil rigs and the methods of inspecting rigs and making sure that proper safety measures were taken.

pipes /paɪps/ *n* [(*the*) P] *BrE infml* for BAGPIPES

pi-pette /pɪ'pet||paɪ-/ *n* a thin glass tube used in chemistry, into which exact amounts of liquid can be sucked, then held and/or allowed to flow out —see picture at LABORATORY

pip-ing¹ /'paɪpɪŋ/ *n* [U] 1 PIPES¹ (1) in general or a system of pipes: *outdoor piping* | *a length of copper/plastic piping* 2 a a narrow often tubelike band of cloth used for decorating the edges of clothes, furniture, etc.: *blue sofa*

covers with white piping **b** thin lines of ICING used for decorating cakes 3 the action or skill of a PIPER

pip-ing² *adv* **pip-ing hot** *apprec* (esp. of liquids or food) very hot; a word usu. used by someone who is feeling very cold: *pip-ing hot soup*

pip-it /'pɪpɪt/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a small usu. brown or greyish bird: *the meadow pipit*

pip-pin /'pɪpɪn/ *n* (*usu. cap. as part of a name*) a kind of sweet apple

pip-squeak /'pɪpskwɪ:k/ *n derog* someone who is not really worth one's attention or respect, but who behaves as if he/she is important, esp. a child

pi-quant /'pi:kənt/ *adj* 1 having a pleasant sharp taste: *a piquant sauce* 2 pleasantly interesting and exciting, and giving one a feeling of satisfaction: *a particularly piquant situation when my old enemy asked for my help* — **~ly** *adv* — **quancy** *n* [U]

pi-que¹ /pɪ:k/ *n* [U] a feeling of annoyance and displeasure, esp. caused by the hurting of one's pride: *He left in a fit of pique.*

pi-que² *v* [T *often pass.*] to make (someone) angry by hurting their pride; offend: *He was piqued by her indifference.*

pi-ra-cy /'paɪərəsi/ *n* 1 [U] robbery by pirates 2 [U] the action of pirating 3 [C] an example of either of these

Pir-an-del-lo /,pɪrən'deləʊ/, **Lu-i-gi** /lu:'i:dʒi/ (1867–1936) an Italian writer known for plays which examine the relationship between the real and the unreal, who won the NOBEL PRIZE for literature in 1934

pi-ra-nha /pɪ'ra:njə, -nə/ *n* a fierce South American flesh-eating river fish

pi-rate¹ /'paɪərət/ *n* 1 (esp. formerly) a person who sails the seas stopping and robbing ships at sea. Pirates in stories often speak roughly, drink a lot, esp. RUM, and have a PARROT on their shoulder. They sometimes wear a black PATCH over one eye and have a wooden leg. They also use phrases which are connected esp. with pirates, e.g. "Shiver me timbers" (=used as a phrase showing great surprise). — see also LONG JOHN SILVER and see picture at LONG JOHN SILVER 2 a person who pirates the work of other people — **-ratical** /paɪ'rætɪkəl, pɪ-/ *adj*: *a large piratical beard* — **-ratically** /kli/ *adv*

pirate² *v* [T] to copy and sell (the work of other people, such as a book, a new invention, etc.) without permission or payment, when the COPYRIGHT (=the right to do so) belongs to someone else. It is against the law to pirate books, CASSETTES, VIDEOS, etc. in Britain and in many other countries: *pirated video tapes*

pirate ra-di-o /'paɪərət · 'reɪdɪəʊ/ *n* [U] radio broadcasts, or the stations sending them out, which are not legal because they do not have a LICENCE (1) to operate

Pirates of Pen-zance /,paɪərəts əv pen'zæns/, **The** an OPERETTA by Gilbert and Sullivan, about a band of pirates who never succeed in robbing anyone. It contains the humorous songs *The Very Model of a Modern Major General* and *A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One.*

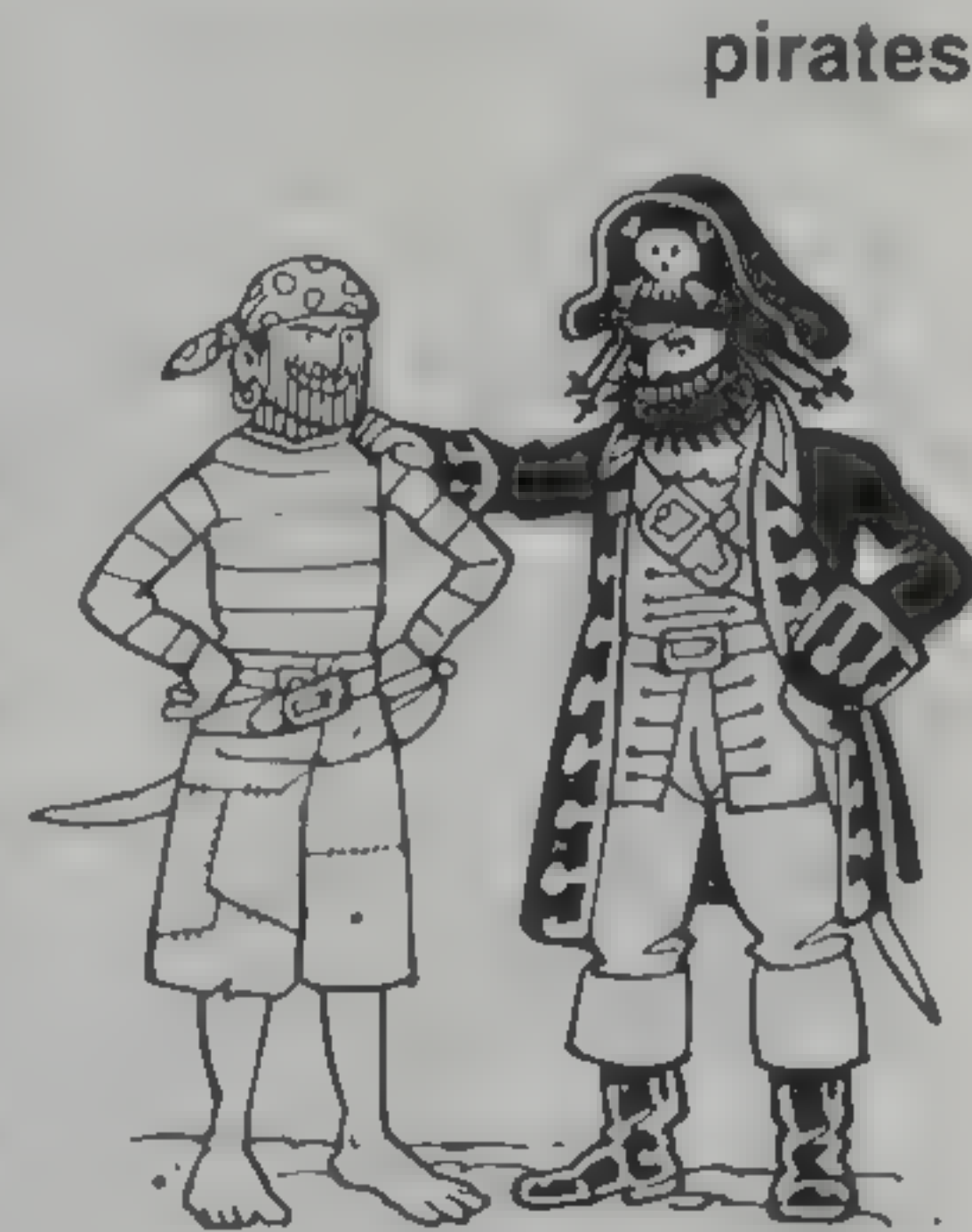
Pi-rel-li cal-en-dar /pɪ'reli 'kælɪndə/ *n* any of the CALENDARS (=table of days arranged in weeks and months) produced yearly by the Pirelli company. Each month shows a photograph of a woman with few clothes on and some people consider the photographs to be artistic.

pir-ou-ette /,pɪru'et/ *n* a very fast turn made on one toe or the front part of one foot, esp. by a BALLET dancer: *to dance/do a pirouette* — **pirouette** *v* [I]

Pi-sa /'pi:zə/ a city in N central Italy, famous for its CATHEDRAL and the Leaning Tower —see also LEANING TOWER OF PISA

pis-ca-to-ri-al /,pɪskə'tɔ:riəl/ *adj fml or pomp* connected with fishing or fishermen

Pis-ces /'paɪsɪz/ *n* 1 the 12th sign of the ZODIAC represented by two fish 2 [C] a person born between February 20 and March 20 —see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC



pirates

pish /pɪʃ/ *interj* *old use* (used to express feelings of not very strong anger or impatience)

piss¹ /pɪs/ *v* *taboo sl* **1** [I] to URINATE **2** [it+I (DOWN)] *esp. BrE* (of rain) to fall heavily: *It's pissing down.* **3** **piss oneself** *esp. BrE* to laugh uncontrollably

piss about/around *phr v* [I] *taboo sl* to act in a foolish irresponsible way; waste time

piss off *phr v* **1** [I *usu. imperative*] *taboo sl* to go away **2** [T] (**piss** sbdy. ↔ **off**) *sl, not taboo a BrE [usu. pass.]* to cause to lose interest; *BORE: She's rather pissed off with her job.* **b** to annoy: *The way he insults his friends behind their backs really pisses me off.*

piss² *n* *taboo sl* **1** [U] URINE **2** [S] an act of urinating (URINATE): *to have/take a piss* **3** **take the piss out of** *BrE* to make fun of —see also PISS-TAKE

Pis-sar-ro /pɪ'sa:rəʊ/, **Ca-mille** /kæ'mɪ:l/ (1830–1903) a French IMPRESSIONIST artist

pissed /pɪst/ *adj* [F] **1** *BrE* *taboo sl* drunk **2** *AmE* *sl, not taboo* annoyed or angered **3** **pissed as a newt, pissed out of one's head/mind** *BrE* *taboo sl* very drunk

piss-take /'pɪ.ə/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *taboo sl* an act of making fun of someone —see also **take the piss out of** (PISS²)

piss-up /'pɪ.ə/ *n* *taboo sl, esp. BrE* an occasion of drinking lots of alcohol

pis-ta-chi-o /pɪ'stɑːʃiəʊ/ || pɪ'stæ-/ *n* **-chios** a small green nut: *pistachio ice cream*

pis-til /'pɪstl/ *n* *tech* the female seed-producing part of a flower

pis-tol /'pɪstl/ *n* a small gun held in one hand: *to draw/aim/fire a pistol* —see picture at GUN

pis-ton /'pɪstən/ *n* a part of an engine consisting of a short solid pipe-shaped piece of metal that fits tightly into a CYLINDER (=a tube). It is moved up and down in the tube by means of pressure or explosion, and causes other parts of the engine to move.

piston ring /'pɪstən/ *n* a circular metal spring used to stop gas or liquid escaping from between a piston and its CYLINDER (3)

pit¹ /pɪt/ *n* **1** [C] a hole in the ground: *They dug a pit to bury the rubbish.* —compare PITS (2) **2** [C] a coal mine: *plans for the closure of uneconomic pits* | *He worked all his life down the pit.* (=in the coal industry) **3** [(the) C *usu. sing.*] also **orchestra pit**— the space below and in front of a theatre stage where musicians play the music for a performance **4** [(the) C *usu. sing.*] the seats at the back of the ground floor of a theatre, behind the STALLS **5** [C *often pl.*] a small hollow mark or place in the surface of something, esp. as left on the face after certain diseases, esp. SMALLPOX **6** *AmE* for PITS (1) **7** [C *usu. sing.*] *BrE* *humor* one's bed: *in my pit* **8** [the+S] *esp. bibl* for HELL (1) **9** **pit of one's stomach** the hollow place just below the chest, esp. thought of as being the place where fear is felt —see also PITS, ARMPIT, SANDPIT

pit² *v* **-tt-** [T] to mark with PITS¹ (5): *the deeply/heavily pitted surface of the metal*

pit sbdy./sthg. **against** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to set against in a competition to see which is better, who will win, etc.: *pitting his strength against that of a man twice his size* | *In the quiz she had to pit her wits* (=match her mental ability) *against some very clever people.*

pit³ *n* *AmE* for STONE¹ (4) —see picture at FRUIT

pit⁴ *v* **-tt-** [T] *AmE* for STONE² (2)

pit-a bread /'pɪtə bred || 'pɪtə-/ *AmE* for PITT A BREAD

pit-a-pat /'pɪ.ə/ also **pitter-patter**— *adv infml* with many quick light beats or steps: *His heart went pit-a-pat.* | *The rain fell pitter-patter against the window.* —**pit-a-pat, pitter-patter** *n* [(the) S], *adj* [A]

pit bull ter-ri-er /'pɪ.ə/ also **pit bull** /'pɪ.ə/— *n* an American fighting dog considered very dangerous when its owner is unable to control it. Pit bull terriers have caused terrible injuries to children and adults. In Britain they may no longer be sold, bred, or brought into the country, and they must wear a MUZZLE (=a covering round the mouth to prevent the dog from biting) when they are in a public place. —see picture at DOG

pitch¹ /pɪtʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to set up (a tent, camp, etc.), esp. for a short time: *They pitched camp by the river.* —opposite **strike** **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to set the degree or highness or lowness of (a sound, music, etc.): *This song is pitched too high for my voice.* —see also HIGH-PITCHED, LOW-PITCHED

3 [T+obj+adv/prep] to express in a way suitable to be understood by particular people: *He pitched his speech at a very simple level so that even the children could understand.* **4** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) fall heavily or suddenly forwards or outwards: *His foot caught in a rock and he pitched forwards.* **5** [I] (of a ship or aircraft) to move along with the back and front going up and down: *The ship pitched violently in the stormy sea.* —compare ROLL¹ (6), YAW **6** [T+obj+adv/prep] to throw, esp. in a way that shows dislike or annoyance; *ROSS: He screwed up the letter and pitched it into the fire.* **7** [I] (of a ball in cricket or GOLF) to hit the ground **8** (in GOLF) to hit (the ball) in a high ARC **9** [T] (of a cricketer) to make (a ball) hit the ground when bowling (BOWL) **10** [I;T] (in the game of BASEBALL) to aim and throw (a ball) **11** [I+adv/prep] to slope downwards: *The roof of this house pitches sharply.* —see also PITCHED

pitch in *phr v* [I] *infml* **1** to start to work or eat eagerly, esp. in a group: *If we all pitch in and help we should get the job finished this afternoon.* **2** [(with)] to add one's help or support: *The local council pitched in with an offer of a free van.*

pitch² *n* **1** [C] *BrE* || **field** *AmE*— (in sport) a special marked-out area of ground on which football, HOCKEY, NETBALL, etc., are played: *The crowd invaded the pitch at the end of the match.* **2** [C] the degree of highness or lowness of a musical note or speaking voice —see also CONCERT PITCH **3** [S (of);U] degree; level: *Disagreement reached such a pitch that we thought a fight would break out.* | *Speculation about the forthcoming election was at fever pitch* (=at the highest degree). **4** [C] a place in a public area, such as a street or market, where someone regularly tries to get money from people who are passing, e.g. by performing, selling things, etc. **5** [S] a backward and forward movement of a ship or aircraft —compare ROLL² (1) **6** [S;U (of)] (esp. in building) amount or degree of slope, esp. of a roof **7** [C] *infml* for SALES PITCH —see also **queer someone's pitch** (QUEER³)

pitch³ *n* [U] a black substance that is melted into a sticky material used for making protective coverings or for filling cracks, esp. in a ship, to stop water coming through: *It's as black as pitch* (=very dark) *in here; has anyone got a torch?*

pitch-and-putt /'pɪ.ə/ *n* [U] a game of GOLF on a special course where the holes (HOLE¹ (5b)) are shorter than on a full-size golf course

pitch-black /'pɪ.ə/ also **pitch-dark**— *adj* completely black or dark: *a pitch-black moonless night* —**ness** *n* [U]

pitch-blende /'pɪtʃblend/ *n* [U] a dark shiny substance dug from the earth, from which URANIUM and RADIUM are obtained

pitched /pɪtʃt/ *adj* (of a roof) sloping rather than flat —see also HIGH-PITCHED, LOW-PITCHED

pitched bat-tle /'pɪtʃtəl/ *n* **1** (in former times) a battle at a chosen place between armies with positions already prepared —compare SKIRMISH **2** *infml* a fierce and usu. long quarrel or argument: *We had a pitched battle with the council before they'd agree to repair the road.*

pitch-er¹ /'pɪtʃə/ *n* **1** *BrE* a large container for holding and pouring liquids, usu. made of clay and having two ear-shaped handles **2** *AmE* for JUG¹ (1) —see picture at JUG

pitcher² *n* (in BASEBALL) a player who throws the ball towards the BATTER —see picture at BASE BALL

pitch-fork¹ /'pɪtʃfɔːk || -fɔːrk/ *n* a long-handled farm tool with two long curved metal points, used esp. for lifting and throwing HAY (=dried cut grass)

pitchfork² *v* [T] **1** to lift and throw (HAY) using a pitchfork **2** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put (a person) suddenly or unexpectedly into a place or situation for which they are not properly prepared: *He was pitchforked into the post of manager without any training.*

pit-e-ous /'pɪtiəs/ *adj* *esp. lit* expressing suffering in a sad way, so that one feels pity: *the piteous cries of the starving children* —**ly** *adv* —**ness** *n*

pit-fall /'pɪtʃɔːl/ *n* an unexpected difficulty or danger; mistake that can easily be made: *English spelling presents many pitfalls for foreign students.*

pith /pɪθ/ *n* [U] **1** a soft white SPONGE-like substance that fills the stems of certain plants **2** a white material just under the coloured outside skin of oranges and similar

fruit **3** the central most important part of an argument, idea, etc.

pit-head /'pɪt-hed/ *n* the entrance to a coal mine and the buildings around it: *pithead baths*

pith hel-met /'pɪθ- / also **topee**— *n* a large light hat worn in the tropics, esp. formerly, to protect the head from the sun

pith-y /'pɪθi/ *adj* **1** (of something said or written) strongly and cleverly stated without wasting any words: *pithy advice* **2** of, like, or having a lot of pith —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

pit-i-a-ble /'pɪtiəbəl/ *adj* rather *fml* pitiful —*bly adv*

pit-i-ful /'pɪtɪfəl/ *adj* **1** causing or deserving pity: *The sick animals were in a pitiful condition.* **2** *derog* not deserving respect or serious consideration: *You don't expect me to believe that pitiful excuse, do you?* —*ly adv*: *She had become pitifully thin.* — *~ness n* [U]

pit-i-less /'pɪtɪləs/ *adj* showing no pity or MERCY; cruel and unforgiving: *a pitiless tyrant* | *pitiless cruelty* | (fig.) *The pitiless (=unbearably severe) north wind blew for weeks on end.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

pit-man /'pɪtmən/ *n* -men /mən/ a coal miner

Pi-tot tube /'pɪtəʊ tjuːb||-tuːb/ *n* an instrument used in measuring the speed of an aircraft

pit po-ny /'pɪ- / *n* a small horse used esp. formerly for moving coal in a coal mine

pit prop /'pɪ- / *n* a support for the roof of an underground passage in a coal mine

pits /pɪts/ *n* [the+P] **1** (in motor racing) a place beside a track where cars can come during a race to be quickly examined and repaired **2** *infml derog* the worst possible example of something: *That new film is the pits!*

pit stop /'pɪ- / *n* the action of stopping in the pits during a car race to get more petrol or have repairs done: (fig.) *We'll make a pit stop in Butte to get something to eat and use the restrooms.*

pit-ta bread /'pɪtə bred||'pɪtə-/ *BrE* || **pita bread** *AmE*— *n* [U] a type of bread, originally from the Middle East, which is flat and hollow: *For a healthy lunch, fill a piece of pitta bread with lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and slices of avocado.*

pit-tance /'pɪtəns/ *n* [usu. sing.] a very small ungenerous amount of pay or money: *She gets paid a (mere) pittance in her present job.*

pit-ted /'pɪtɪd/ *adj* esp. *AmE* for STONELESS: *pitted dates*

pit-ter-pat-ter /'pɪtə ,pætəʔ||'pɪtər-/ *adj, adv, n* PIT-A-PAT

Pitts-burgh /'pɪtsbɜːg||-bɜːrg/ also **Pitt** /pɪt/ *infml*— an industrial city in the US state of Pennsylvania —see colour map on pages 1374–5

pi-tu-i-ta-ry /pɪ'tjuːɪtəri||pɪ'tuːɪteri/ also **pituitary gland** /-..... /— *n* a small organ at the base of the brain which produces various HORMONES that influence the growth and development of the body

pit-y /'pɪti/ *n* **1** [U] sympathy and sorrow for someone's suffering or unhappiness: *We had/took pity on (=felt sorry for and decided to help) the homeless family and took them into our house.* **2** [S] a sad, unfortunate, or inconvenient state of affairs; SHAME¹ (4): *"We've got to leave now." "What a pity!"* [+ (that)] *It's a pity you can't come to the party.* | *"I can't afford to run this car." "(It's a) pity you didn't think of that before you bought it."* (=you should have thought of it) **3** for **pity's sake** (used to add force to a request, esp. showing impatience) please: *For pity's sake be quiet and let me get on with my work.* —see SAKE (USAGE) **4** *BrE* more's the pity *infml* unfortunately: *I won't be able to come this evening, more's the pity.* —see also SELF-PITY

pity² *v* [T] to feel pity for (and perhaps give help to): *Pity us in our distress.* | *I pity anyone who has to feed a family on such a low income.*

piv-ot¹ /'pɪvət/ *n* a fixed central point or pin on which something turns: (fig.) *Capturing the enemy-held towns is the pivot of our plans.* (=our plans depend on this, and if we can't do it they won't work)

pivot² *v* **1** [I (on)] to turn round (as if) on a pivot: *a pivoting gate* **2** [T] to provide with or fix by means of a pivot **pivot on sthg.** *phr v* [T] to depend on

piv-ot-al /'pɪvətəl/ *adj* **1** of or being a pivot **2** of main

importance and influence; CRUCIAL: *a pivotal event in the country's struggle for independence*

pix /pɪks/ *n* [P] *sl* pictures or photographs

pix-el /'pɪksəl/ *n* *tech* the smallest unit of an image on a computer SCREEN¹ (4)

pix-ie, **pixy** /'pɪksi/ *n* a small FAIRY believed to enjoy playing tricks on people

Piz-ar-ro /pɪ'zɑːrəʊ/, **Fran-cis-co** /fræn'sɪskəʊ/ (about 1475–1541) a Spanish EXPLORER of South America who took control of Peru and established the city of Lima

piz-za /'pɪtsə/ *n* [C;U] a plate-shaped piece of DOUGH or pastry baked with a mixture of cheese, TOMATOES, etc., on top. Pizza is originally an Italian food but is now very popular in Britain and the US. Some restaurants specialize in pizzas and will deliver them hot to your door when you make your order by telephone.

Pizza Hut /'pɪ- / any branch of a group of pizza restaurants found in the US and Britain

Pizzaland /'pɪtsələnd/ a company which runs restaurants in many British towns, selling pizzas

piz-za par-lour /'pɪ- / *n* a restaurant whose speciality is pizza

piz-ze-ri-a /'pɪtsə'riːə/ *n* a restaurant which specializes in pizzas

piz-zazz /pə'zæz/ *n* [U] *sl* *apprec*, esp. *AmE* an excitingly forceful quality; DASH² (5): *This song and dance show needs more pizzazz.*

piz-zi-ca-to /'pɪtsɪ'kɑːtəʊ-/ *adj, adv* played by picking the strings of a VIOLIN, CELLO, etc. with one's finger instead of using a BOW³ (2)

pj's, **PJ's** /'pɪː 'dʒeɪz/ *n* [P] *AmE infml* PYJAMAS— **pj** *adj*: *pj bottoms*

pl. *written abbrev. for*: plural

plac-ard¹ /'plækɑːd||-ərd/ *n* a large notice or advertisement put up or carried in a public place: *The demonstrators carried placards attacking the government.*

plac-ard² /'plækɑːd||-ɑːrd/ *v* [T] to stick placards on or all over

pla-cate /plə'keɪt||'pleɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] to cause to stop feeling angry; APPEASE: *I tried to placate her by offering to pay for the repairs.* —**catory** /plə'keɪtəri, 'plækətəri||'pleɪkətəri/ *adj*: *placatory words*

place¹ /pleɪs/ *n* **1** [C] a particular area or position in space in relation to others: *This is the place where the accident happened.* | *Where would be the best place to put this new clock?* | *Put it back in its place.* (=the position where it usually is) | *I've got a sore place (=area) on my lip.* | (fig.) *I dropped the book and lost my place.* (=could not find the point I had reached in reading it) | (fig.) *Could you keep my place in the queue* (=make sure no one comes and stands where I have been standing) *while I go and get a paper?* | (fig.) *People with racist views have no place in our union.* (=we will not accept them) **2** [C] a particular part of the Earth's surface, such as a stretch of land, a town, a building, etc.: *Moscow is a very cold place in winter.* | *What a desolate place the moon must be.* | *Is London a nice place to live?* | *a place of worship* (=a church, temple, etc.) | *This restaurant is one of the best places to eat in London.* | *They've bought a little place (=house) in the country.* | *Come over to my place (=home) tomorrow.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a position that can be used by someone for a particular purpose: *There were still some empty places (=seats) on the coach.* | *He's been offered a place at university.* (=as a student) | *They laid a place for him at the table.* (=put a knife, fork, spoon, etc. in position) **4** [C] a proper or suitable occasion or moment: *A business meeting isn't the place at which to talk about one's private life.* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] a (numbered) position in the result of a competition, race, etc.: *John took first place in the history exam.* | *I finished in third place.* | (fig.) *Our personal wishes take second place to* (=are less important than) *the needs of the children.* **6** [C] social position; rank: *This has been talked about in high places.* (=by people of high rank and influence) | *He thought he was being very clever, but she soon put him in his place.* (=showed that he was not) **7** [S] a *usu.* numbered point in an argument, explanation, etc.: *In the first place I don't want to go, and in the second place I can't afford to.* **8** [C] the position of a figure in a row of figures, to the right of a decimal point: *If you divide 11 by 9 and*

calculate the division to four decimal places, the answer is 1.2222. **9** [S] duty; what one should or must do: *It's not your place to tell me what to do.* **10** [C usu. sing.] tech any of the first three positions in the result of a horse race, esp. the second (BrE) or third) position: *£5 on Not So Fast for a place, please* (=to come second or third) **11** all over the place *infml* a everywhere b in disorder: *She's left her books spread all over the place.* **12** a place for everything (and everything in its place) (usu. said to express the idea that things should be returned to where they belong, so they can be easily found) **13** click/fall/slot into place (of a set of events, facts, etc.) to be seen in its proper order or position, esp. so that the whole thing can be understood: *When the newspaper published his photo, everything fell into place: he was the man I'd seen at the scene of the crime.* **14** 'go places *infml* (usu. in progressive forms or in future tenses) to be increasingly successful: *That girl's got a lot of talent; she's really going to go places.* **15** in place: a in the proper or usual position: *As soon as all the chairs are in place, we can let the people in.* b in existence and ready to be used: *The new regulations are now in place.* **16** in place of instead of: *In place of our advertised programme we will be showing a film.* | *Jane couldn't go so I attended the conference in her place.* **17** out of place: a not in the proper or usual position b unsuitable (for the occasion or situation): *The luxurious furnishings would not have been out of place in a palace.* **18** place in the sun *infml* a position that is favourable to someone's future development **19** take one's place: a to go to one's special position for some activity: *Take your places for the next dance.* b to be considered as being: *This new work will take its place among the most important paintings of this century.* **20** take place to happen, esp. by arrangement: *the peace talks currently taking place in Geneva* —see HAPPEN (USAGE) **21** take the place of to act or be used instead of; REPLACE: *Electric trains have now taken the place of steam trains in England.* | *I can't come to the meeting myself, so my deputy will take my place.* —see also PRIDE OF PLACE

▷ USAGE **Room** [U] and **place** [C] can both mean free space that can be used for a purpose; but **place** is used for a single particular piece of space, while **room** means space in general: *"Is there (any) room for me to sit down in here?" "Yes, there's a place in the corner."* | *This is the place where we keep the coal.* | *There's no room for any more coal in here.* —see also POSITION¹ (USAGE)◀

place² v [T] **1** [+obj+adv/prep] rather *fml* to put or arrange in the stated position: *He placed the book carefully on the shelf.* | *Her request places me in a very difficult position.* | *Place the ten wines in order of preference.* | (fig.) *A politician should place his loyalty to the people above party interest.* **2** to give to a person, firm, etc., who can do the needed action: *We placed an order with them for 500 pairs of shoes.* (=we ordered these shoes from them) | *to place* (=make) a bet **3** [+obj+adj/adv/prep; usu. pass.] to state the position of (a runner) at the end of a race: *He was placed second.* **4** [usu. in questions and negatives] to remember fully the name or other details of (someone or something), and where and when one last saw or heard them or it: *I'm sure I've met her before somewhere, but I can't quite place her.* **5** to find a suitable job for **6** (of a horse in a race) a BrE [pass] to come in second or third: *Last season Freda's Boy won once and was placed twice.* b AmE [I] to come in second: *Seadog placed in the last race.* | *\$10 on Bengal Lady to place, please.*

place-bo /plə'si:bəʊ/ *n* -bos or -boes a substance given instead of real medicine, without the person who takes it knowing that it is not real. Often a person will become well simply because they know they've been given a medicine, whether or not the medicine works. This is called the placebo effect.

place card /'plɑːs kɑːd/ *n* a small card with someone's name on it, put on a table to show where they are to sit at a formal dinner

placed /pleɪst/ *adj* esp. BrE **1** [F (for)] in the stated situation: *How are you placed for money?* (=Have you got enough money?) **2** be placed see PLACE² (6)

place kick /'plɑːs kɪk/ *n* a kick at a ball, esp. in RUGBY, placed or held in position on the ground

place mat /'plɑːs mæt/ *n* a mat for a single PLACESETTING at a table

place-ment /'pleɪsmənt/ *n* [C;U] the act or an example of placing someone or something in position: *The univer-*

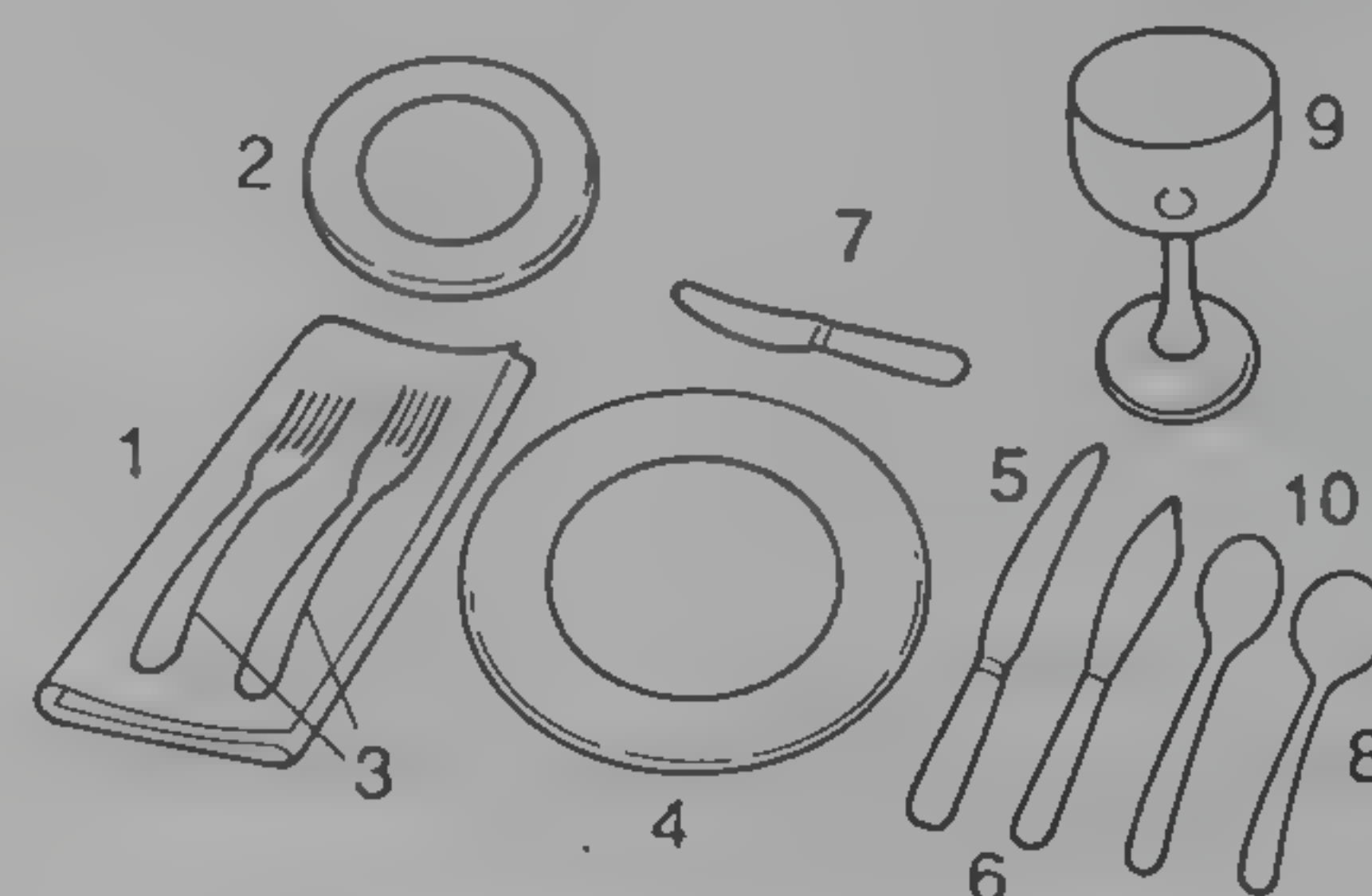
sity offers a placement service for its graduates. (=a service to find jobs for them)

pla-cen-ta /plə'sentə/ *n* -tas or -tae /ti:/ a thick mass of flesh containing many blood tubes, which forms inside the WOMB to join an unborn child to its mother —compare AFTERBIRTH

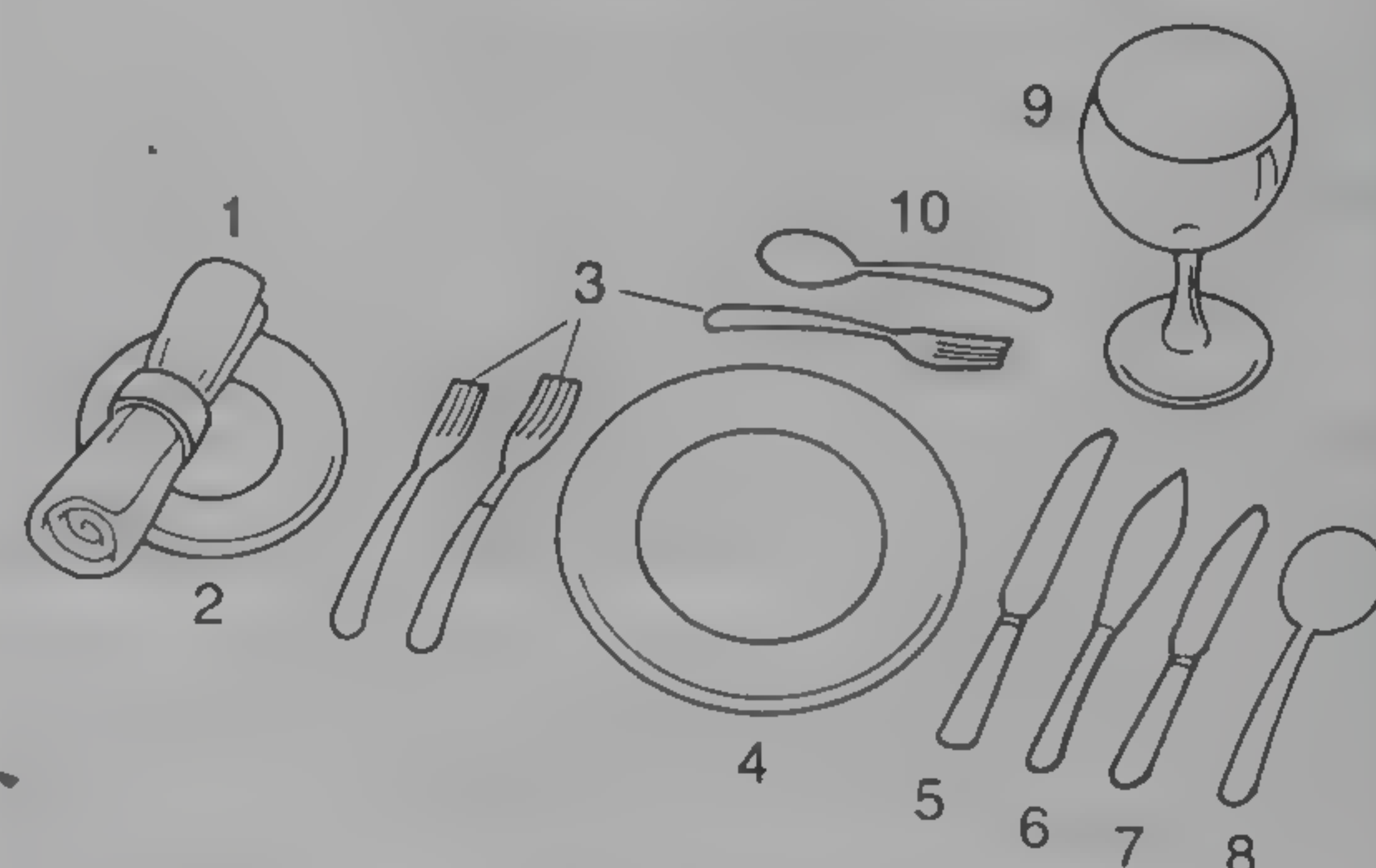
place of work /'plɑːs ɒf wɜːk/ *n* places of work tech the place where a person goes to work

place of wor-ship /'plɑːs ɒf wɜːʃp/ *n* places of worship a building where people worship or practise their religion: *mosques, synagogues, and other places of worship*

place settings



an American place setting



a British place setting

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 napkin/serviette | 6 fish knife |
| 2 side plate | 7 butter knife |
| 3 fork | 8 soup spoon |
| 4 plate | 9 wine glass |
| 5 knife | 10 dessertspoon |

place set-ting /'plɑːs ɪtɪŋ/ *n* an arrangement of knives, forks, spoons, glasses, etc., to be used by one person when eating at a table

places of in-ter-est /'plɑːs ɒf ɪn'ter-est/ *n* [P] the places, such as MUSEUMS, historic buildings, etc., in an area which tourists go to see: *There are many places of interest in and around Oxford, including the Botanical Gardens, the Colleges and, a short distance away, the historic market town of Abingdon.*

plac-id /'plæsɪd/ *adj* **1** (of a person or animal) not easily made angry or excited: *a placid child/disposition* **2** (of a thing) calm; peaceful: *the placid surface of the lake* — *ly adv* — *ness*, *-ity* /plə'sɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

plac-ing /'pleɪsɪŋ/ *n* tech a sale of shares, STOCKS, or BONDS by a company to people or institutions who have agreed in advance to buy them

pla-gia-ris-m /'pleɪdʒərɪzəm/ *n* **1** [U] the action of plagiarizing **2** [C] a plagiarized idea, phrase, story, etc.: *an article full of plagiarisms* — *-rist n*

pla-gia-rize also -rise BrE /'pleɪdʒəraɪz/ *v* [I;T] to take (words, ideas, etc.) from (someone else's work) and use them in one's own work without admitting one has done so. If you plagiarize at university in Britain or the US you may be refused a degree: *Half the ideas in his talk were plagiarized from an article I wrote last year.*

plague¹ /pleɪg/ *n* **1** [C] an attack of disease causing death and spreading quickly to a large number of people: *Europe suffered many plagues in the Middle Ages.* **2** [(the) U] a very infectious disease that produces high fever,

swellings on the body, and death, esp. BUBONIC PLAGUE — see also BLACK DEATH **3** [C+of] a widespread, uncontrollable, and harmful mass or number: *a plague of rats/insects* **4** a **plague** on someone/something *lit* (used as a curse to express the wish that someone/something will suffer)

plague² *v* [T] **1** to cause continual discomfort, suffering, or trouble to: *She's been plagued by back pain all her life.* **2** [(with)] to annoy, esp. by some repeated action: *He's been plaguing me with silly questions all day!*

plaice /pleɪs/ *n* **plaice** [C;U] a flat sea fish commonly eaten

plaid /plæd/ *n* **1** [U] thick material having a pattern of squares formed by brightly coloured crossing bands, esp. of a sort (TARTAN) originally from Scotland **2** [C] a piece of plaid worn over the shoulder and across the chest by Scotsmen as part of their NATIONAL COSTUME

Plaid Cym-ru /ˌplaid ˈkəmri/ a political party in Wales representing people who want a separate Welsh state and more use of the Welsh language

plain¹ /pleɪn/ *adj* **1** simple; without anything added; without decoration: *plain food* | *You should wear a plain blouse with this checked skirt.* | (fig.) *The plain fact is that we just can't afford it.* **2** a clear; easy to see, hear, or understand: *It's quite plain (to me) that you haven't been paying attention.* | *Explain it in plain English.* **b** showing clearly, honestly, and exactly what is thought or felt; FRANK: *plain speaking* | *I hope I've made myself plain on this issue.* **3** (of paper) without lines **4** *euph* (esp. of a woman) not pretty or good-looking; rather ugly **5** [A] complete; undoubted: *It's just plain foolishness to spend all your pay as soon as you get it!* **6** as plain as day/as a pikestaff/as the nose on your face *infml* very noticeable or clearly understandable; OBVIOUS — see also PLAINLY — *~ness* *n* [U]

plain² also **plains** *pl.* — *n* a large stretch of flat land: *the Great Plains of the US* — see GREAT PLAINS

plain³ *adv infml* completely: *That's just plain stupid!*

plain⁴ also **knit** — *n* [U] *tech* the ordinary stitch in knitting (KNIT): *three plain, two purl* — compare PURL¹

plain-chant /ˈpleɪntʃɑːnt/ — *pl.* *~tʃænt/* *n* [U] PLAINSONG

plain choc-olate /ˌplɪn ˈtʃɒlət/ — *pl.* *~lɪt/* *n* [U] *BrE* || *dark chocolate* *AmE* — *n* [U] dark chocolate made without milk and with little sugar — compare MILK CHOCOLATE

plain-clothes /ˌplɪn ˈkləʊðz/ *adj* (of a policeman) wearing ordinary clothes while on duty, rather than a uniform: *a plain-clothes detective investigating a murder*

plain flour /ˌplɪn ˈflaʊə/ *BrE* || **all-purpose flour** *AmE* — *n* [U] flour that contains no BAKING POWDER — compare SELF-RAISING FLOUR

plain-ly /ˈpleɪnli/ *adv* **1** in a PLAIN¹ (1,2) way: *Their conversation could be quite plainly heard by the neighbours.* | *plainly dressed* | *I told her plainly what I thought of her scheme.* **2** it is clear that; OBVIOUSLY: *The door's locked, so plainly they must be out.*

plain sail-ing /ˌplɪn ˈseɪlɪŋ/ *n* [U] a situation or course of action that is free from difficulty or trouble: *We've got over the difficult part, so it will be plain sailing from now on.*

plain-song /ˈpleɪnsɒŋ/ — *pl.* *~sɒŋ/* also **plainchant** *n* [U] a type of old Christian church music for voices that has no HARMONY and sounds rather like sung speech

plain-spo-ken /ˌplɪn ˈspəʊkən/ *adj* direct and honest in what one says, sometimes in a rude way; BLUNT¹ (2) — compare OUTSPOKEN

plaint /pleɪnt/ *n* *poet* an expression of great sorrow

plain-tiff /ˈpleɪntɪf/ also **complainant** — *n* a person who brings a charge against someone (the DEFENDANT) in a court of law

plain-tive /ˈpleɪntɪv/ *adj* **1** (usu. of a sound) expressing suffering or sorrow: *We heard a plaintive whimpering coming from the kitchen — it was the dog, who'd been locked in.* **2** expressing gentle sadness: *a plaintive love song* — *~ly* *adv* — *~ness* *n* [U]

plait¹ /plæt/ — *pl.* *~t/* *esp. BrE* || **braid** *esp. AmE* — *n* (often *pl.*) a length of something, esp. hair, made by plaiting: *The little girl wore plaits/wore her hair in plaits.* — compare PIGTAIL, PONYTAIL

plait² *esp. BrE* || **braid** *esp. AmE* — *v* [T] to form (hair, dried stems of grass, etc.) into a ropelike length by twisting

three or more lengths of it over and under each other: *plaited hair* | *a plaited leather belt*



plan

She studied the plan of the house.

plan¹ /plæn/ *n* [(for, of)] **1** a an arrangement, esp. one that has been carefully considered, for carrying out some (future) activity: *new government plans for reducing inflation* | *If we keep to the plan, the work should be completed in two weeks.* [+to-v] *They devised (=made) a plan to rob a bank.* | *I'm glad to say the meeting went according to plan.* (=as we expected) **b** a future course of action that has been decided on; aim or intention: *His plan is to get a degree in economics and work abroad for two years.* | *What are your plans for the weekend?* **c** a way of doing something or bringing something about: *Your best plan would be to catch a taxi; that's the only way you'll get there in time.* — see REFUSE (USAGE) **2** a an arrangement of the parts of a group or system: *What's the seating plan for the guests at dinner?* **b** a maplike drawing showing this: *a street-plan of London* | *The spy stole the secret plans for the new submarine.* **3** a drawing of a building or room as it might be seen from above, showing the shape, measurements, position of the walls, etc. — compare ELEVATION (3), SECTION¹ (3); see also GROUND PLAN

plan² *v* -nn- **1** [I (for, on); T (OUT)] to make a plan for (something); arrange (carefully) in advance: *He never plans (ahead) — he just waits to see what will happen.* | *We hadn't planned for/on so many guests, so there wasn't enough food.* | *We've been planning this visit for months; it's all planned out.* | *I'd planned on doing some work this afternoon.* (=that's what I had intended to do) [+to-v] *Where do you plan (=intend) to spend your holiday?* **2** [T] to make drawings, models, or other representations of (something to be built or made); DESIGN: *the architect who planned the new shopping centre*

Plan B /ˌplæn ˈbi/ *infml* the action which is planned if a main plan fails, or if anything goes wrong

Planck /plæŋk/ — *pl.* *~ŋk/*, Max (1858–1947) a German scientist who developed the ideas on which QUANTUM THEORY is based

plane¹ /pleɪn/ *n* **1** an AEROPLANE: *The next plane to New York departs in 20 minutes.* | *It's quicker by plane.* **2** a level; standard: *Let's keep the conversation on a friendly plane.* | *You can't really compare the two newspapers — they're on completely different intellectual planes.* **3** *tech* (in GEOMETRY) a completely flat surface

▷ USAGE If you are in control of a plane you fly it or pilot it. As a passenger, you travel by plane, and in or on a particular plane. At the beginning of your journey you get on or board a plane and at the end of your journey you get off it. — see also DRIVE¹ (USAGE), TRANSPORT¹ (USAGE), STEER (USAGE) <

plane² *adj* [A] *tech* **1** completely flat and smooth: *a plane surface* **2** about or being lines and figures with only length and width; two-DIMENSIONAL: *Plane geometry is the study of plane figures, angles, measurements, etc.*

plane³ *n* a tool with a blade that takes very thin pieces off wooden surfaces to make them smooth — see picture at TOOL

plane⁴ *v* [T] to use a PLANE³ on: *He planed the door.* | *He planed the door smooth.* | *Try to plane down those bumps in the wood.*

plane⁵ *n* a PLANE TREE

plan-et /ˈplænɪt/ *n* a large body in space that moves round a star, esp. round the sun: *The Earth is a planet.* | *the planet Mars* | *Is there life on other planets?* — *~ary* *adj*: *planetary motion* — see also INTERPLANETARY

plan-e-tar-i-um /ˌplænɪ'teəriəm/ *n* **-riums** or **-ria** /riə/ a building containing an apparatus that throws spots of light onto the inside of a curved roof to show the movements of planets and stars. Members of the public pay to visit a planetarium and to watch the images while listening to a talk.

Planet of the Apes /ˌplænɪt ɒv ðə 'eɪp/ an American film, set in an imaginary future where monkeys rule the world and control humans

plane tree /'pleɪn ˌtri/ also **plane**— *n* a broad-leaved wide-spreading tree that commonly grows in towns in Britain

plan-gent /'plændʒənt/ *adj* *lit* (of a sound) having an expressive and sorrowful quality — *~ly adv* — **-gency** *n* [U]

plank /plæŋk/ *n* **1** a long narrow usu. heavy piece of wooden board, esp. used for making structures to walk on: *a small bridge made of planks* **2** any of the main principles of a political party's stated set of aims: *The main plank in their election programme is the promise to cut taxes.* — see also **as thick as two planks** (THICK¹ (12)), **walk the plank** (WALK¹)

plank-ing /'plæŋkɪŋ/ *n* [U] planks, esp. put down as a floor

plank-ton /'plæŋktən/ *n* [U] the very small forms of plant and animal life that live in water, esp. the sea, and are eaten by many fish

planned ob-so-les-cence /ˌplænd əb'soʊləsəns/ *n* [U] (an act of) making a product with a feature that will become unfashionable or unusable in a short time, so that the person who bought the product will soon have to buy something to replace it

Planned Pa-rent-hood /ˌplænd 'peɪnt hʊd/ an American private organization which gives free advice on FAMILY PLANNING (=the controlling of the number of children born in a family)

plan-ner /'plænə/ *n* (often in comb.) a person who plans, esp. one who plans the way in which towns develop — see also TOWN PLANNING

planning per-mis-sion /'plæniŋ pə'mɪʃən/ *n* [U] official permission to put up a new building or change an existing one. Planning permission must be obtained from the local authority or, in some cases, the government before work begins: *The garage was built without planning permission.*

plant¹ /plɑːnt||plænt/ *n* **1** [C] a living thing that has leaves and roots, and grows usu. in earth, esp. the kind smaller than trees: *All plants need water and light.* | *a potato plant* — see also HOUSEPLANT **2** [C] (often in comb.) a factory or other place where an industrial process is carried out: *a water-softening plant* | *They've just built a new chemical plant.* — see also POWER PLANT **3** [U] heavy machinery, esp. used for industrial processes: *investing in new plant for our factory* **4** [C usu. sing.] *infml* something, esp. stolen goods, that has been hidden on someone so that it will be found, and they will seem guilty

plant² *v* [T] **1** to put (plants or seeds) in the ground to grow: *We've planted a tree/some tomatoes in the garden.* | (fig.) *The propaganda had planted the seeds of doubt in their minds.* **2** [(with)] to put seeds or growing plants in the ground in (a place): *We're planting a small garden.* | *The hillside was planted with trees.* **3** [(on)] *infml* to hide (esp. stolen or illegal goods) on someone so that they will be found and the person will seem guilty: *These drugs aren't mine — they must have been planted on me!* **4** [+obj+adv|prep] *infml* to put in position secretly or so as to deceive: *Plain-clothes policemen had been planted at all the exits.* | *bombs planted in the railway station* | *She suspected the stories had been planted in the newspapers by her enemies, to discredit her.* **5** [+obj+adv|prep] *infml* to fix or place firmly or forcefully: *He planted a knife in her back.* | *She planted herself in a chair by the fire.* | *She planted a kiss on his cheek.* (=kissed his cheek firmly)

plant sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to place (a plant grown in a pot) in soil outdoors with enough room for growth

Plan-ta-ge-nets /plæn'tædʒənəts/ [*the* + P] the royal family of England from 1154 to 1399 which included Henry II, Richard II, and Richard III

plan-tain¹ /'plæntɪn/ *n* [C;U] (the fruit of) a treelike tropical plant with yellowish-green fruit that are like BANANAS but are cooked before being eaten

plantain² *n* a common wild plant with small green flowers and wide leaves growing close to the ground

plan-ta-tion /plæn'teɪʃən, plɑːn-||plæn-/ *n* **1** (often in comb.)

a large piece of land, esp. in tropical countries, on which crops such as tea, cotton, sugar, and rubber are grown: *a rubber plantation* **2** (in the Southern US) such a large piece of land, growing cotton or other crops, esp. before the CIVIL WAR, when plantation-owners could own many black SLAVES to do the work. Plantations are remembered for their large, expensive, white, COLUMNED houses, the wealth of their owners, and because they exploited (EXPLOIT) slaves. **3** a large group of trees planted esp. to produce wood: *a plantation of fir trees*

plant-er /'plɑːntə/||'plæn-/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a person who owns or is in charge of a plantation: *a tea planter* **2** (usu. in comb.) a machine for planting: *a potato planter* **3** a container in which plants are grown for decorative purposes

plant hire /'plænt haɪə/ *n* [U] *BrE* || **equipment rental** *AmE*— the borrowing for money of heavy equipment such as diggers. Builders often borrow equipment rather than buy it

plant pot /'plænt pɒt/ *BrE* || **flower pot** *AmE*— *n* a usu. plastic pot in which a plant or plants are grown, in the house or for replanting in the garden

plaque /plɑːk, plæk||plæk/ *n* **1** [C] a flat decorative metal or stone plate that is fixed to a wall esp. one that has writing on it describing a famous person who once lived at that place, an event that happened near there, etc. **2** [U] *med* a substance that forms on teeth, and in which bacteria can live and breed — compare TARTAR¹ (1)

plas-ma /'plæzmə/ *n* [U] **1** also **blood plasma**— the yellowish liquid which contains the blood cells; liquid part of blood **2** a gaslike substance that is found inside stars, in flashes of electricity, etc.

plas-ter¹ /'plɑːstə/||'plæ-/ *n* **1** [U] a mixture of LIME, water, sand, etc., which hardens when dry and is used, esp. on walls, to give a smooth surface **2** [C;U] *BrE* || **Banda-aid** *tdmk AmE*— (a thin band of) material that can be stuck to the skin to protect small wounds **3** **in plaster** in a PLASTER CAST (2): *with his leg in plaster*

plaster² *v* [T] **1** to put wet plaster on; cover with plaster: *to plaster the walls in a new house* | (fig.) *The government thinks the cracks in its policies can be plastered over* (=that their faults can be hidden) *with fine-sounding promises.* **2** to spread (something), perhaps too thickly, on (a surface); cover: [+obj+with] *They plastered the wall with posters.* [+obj+on, over] *They plastered posters on the wall/all over the wall.* | *a child completely plastered with mud* **3** [+obj+adv|prep] to cause to lie flat or stick to another surface with a sticky substance: *He'd plastered his hair down with grease.*

plas-ter-board /'plɑːstəbɔːd||'plæstəbɔːrd/ *n* [U] board made of large sheets of cardboard held together with plaster, used instead of plaster to cover walls and CEILINGS

plaster cast /ˌplæstə 'kɑːst/ *n* **1** a copy, esp. of a STATUE, made from plaster of paris **2** a case made from plaster of paris, placed round a part of the body to protect or support a broken bone

plas-tered /'plɑːstəd||'plæstəd/ *adj* [F] *sl* drunk

plas-ter-er /'plɑːstərə/||'plæ-/ *n* a person whose job is to PLASTER² walls, CEILINGS, etc.

plaster of par-is /ˌplɑːstər əv 'pærɪs||'plæ-/ *n* [U] (often cap. 2nd P) a quick-drying whitish mixture of GYPSUM (=a chalklike powder) and water, used for plaster casts, in decorative building work, etc.

plas-tic¹ /'plæstɪk/ *n* **1** [C;U] a light artificial material produced chemically, which can be made into different shapes when soft, keeps its shape when hard, and is commonly used for making various objects: *a plastic spoon* | *These spoons are plastic/are made of plastic.* | *He packed his sandwiches in a plastic bag.* **2** [U] see PLASTIC MONEY

plastic² *adj* **1** *tech* (of a substance) easily formed into various shapes by pressing, and able to keep the new shape: *Clay and wax are plastic substances.* **2** *infml derog* artificial; SYNTHETIC: *plastic food* (=food containing artificial substances)

plastic art /ˌplæstɪk 'ɑːt/ *n* [C usu. pl.;U] *tech* (an) art concerned with representing things in a form that can be seen, esp. painting, SCULPTURE, or making films

plastic bul-let /ˌplæstɪk 'bʊlɪt/ *n* a large bullet made of hard plastic that is meant to hurt but not kill people and is used for controlling violent crowds

plastic card /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n* a CREDIT CARD, DEBIT CARD, CHARGE CARD, etc.

plastic ex-plo-sive /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n* [C;U] (a small bomb made from) an explosive substance that can be shaped by hand

plas-ti-cine /ˈplæstɪsɪn/ *BrE tdmk* || **play dough** *AmE*— *n* [U] a soft claylike substance made in many different colours, used by young children for making small models, shapes, etc.

plas-tic-i-ty /plæsˈtɪsɪti/ *n* [U] *tech* the quality of being PLASTIC² (1)

plastic mac /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n* *BrE* a usu. cheap RAINCOAT made from plastic

plastic mon-ey /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ also **plastic**— *n* [U] *infml* small plastic cards used instead of money for making payments; CREDIT CARDS: *Does the restaurant take plastic money?* | *Can I put it on the plastic?* (=can I use a credit/DEBIT/CHARGE card to pay for it)

plas-tics /ˈplæstɪks/ *n* [U] the producing of plastic: *the plastics industry*

plastic sur-ge-ry /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n* [U] the repairing or improving of damaged, diseased, or unsatisfactorily shaped parts of the body with pieces of skin or bone taken from other parts of the body. In Britain and the US plastic surgery must be paid for if it is not considered necessary for medical reasons: *She had plastic surgery on her face after the car accident.* —compare COSMETIC SURGERY —**plastic surgeon** /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n*

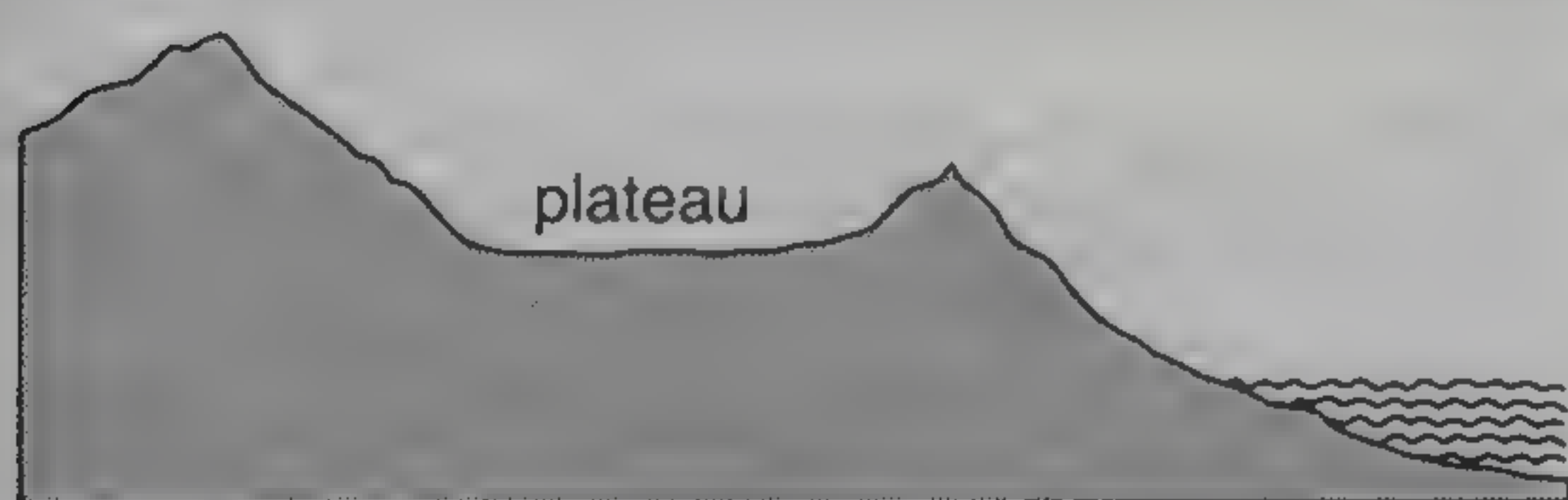
plastic wrap /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ also **saran wrap** *tdmk*— *n* *AmE* for CLING FILM

plat du jour /ˌplɑː du ˈʒʊər/ *n* **plats du jour** (same pronunciation) *Fr* the special dish to which the owner of a restaurant draws people's attention on a particular day

plate¹ /pleɪt/ *n* **1** [C] **a** also **dish** *AmE*— a flat usu. round dish with a slightly raised edge, from which food is eaten or served: *The plates were piled high with rice.* | *a dinner plate* **b** also **plate-ful** /-fʊl/— the amount of food that this will hold: *a plate of meat and potatoes* —see picture at PLACE SETTING **2** [C] (often in comb.) a flat, thin, usu. large piece of something hard: *The reptile's body is covered with protective horny plates.* | *The surgeon inserted a metal plate into the damaged skull.* | *The Earth's crust is made up of vast interlocking sheets of rock, known as plates.* —see also ARMOUR PLATE, FOOTPLATE **3** [U] articles made of valuable metal: *All the church plate has been locked up.* **4** [C] (often in comb.) a small sheet of metal with letters, information, etc. on it: *the numberplate on a car* —see also L-PLATE, NAMEPLATE **5** [U] (often in comb.) ordinary metal with a thin covering of gold or silver; it looks like gold or silver but is less valuable: *gold plate* **6** [C] *tech* a picture in a book, printed on different paper from the written part and often coloured: *a book with ten full-colour plates* **7** [C] a sheet of metal treated so that words or a picture can be printed from its surface **8** [C *usu. sing.*] also **dental plate**— a thin piece of plastic shaped to fit inside a person's mouth, into which false teeth are fixed **9** [C] a thin sheet of glass used esp. formerly in photography, having on one surface chemicals that are sensitive to light **10** [*the+S*] a metal dish or small bag used to collect money in church: *The plate was passed around.* **11** HOME PLATE **12** **on a plate** *infml* with too little effort: *They just handed the game to the other team on a plate.* (=allowed them to win it too easily) **13** **on one's plate** *infml* to deal with (and giving one a lot of problems): *I can't possibly take a holiday at the moment; I've got far too much on my plate.*

plate² *v* [T (with)] to cover (a metal article) thinly with another metal, esp. gold, silver, or tin: *The ring wasn't solid gold — it was only plated (with gold)/gold-plated.*

plateau



plat-eau /ˈplætəʊ||plæˈtəʊ/ *n* -teaus or -teaux /-təʊ/ **1** a

large stretch of level land that is higher than the land around it on at least one side —see picture at MOUNTAIN **2** a steady unchanging level, period, or condition: *House prices seem to have reached a plateau, but they may start rising again soon.*

plate glass /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n* [U] fine clear glass made in large, quite thick sheets for use esp. in shop windows —**plate-glass** *adj* [A]

plate-lay-er /ˈpleɪtˌleɪər/ *BrE* || **tracklayer** *AmE*— *n* a workman who builds or repairs railway tracks

plate-let /ˈpleɪtlɪt/ *n* any of the very small plate-shaped cells in the blood that help to make it go solid when bleeding takes place

plate rack /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n* a frame for storing plates, or where plates, cups, etc., are put to dry after washing —see picture at RACK

plate tec-ton-ics /ˈpleɪt tekˌtɒnɪks||-ˌtɑːn-/ *n* [U] the study of the formation, movement, and destruction of the plates which form the surface of the earth under the ocean, and on which the land rests

plat-form¹ /ˈplætfɔːm||-fɔːrm/ *n* **1** a raised flat surface built along the side of the track at a railway station for travellers getting on or off a train: *The Edinburgh train will depart from platform six.* **2** a tall or high structure built so that people can stand or work above the surrounding area: *an oil exploration platform in the sea.* | *They built a platform in the trees from which they could watch the animals unobserved.* **b** a raised floor or stage for speakers, performers, etc.: *This is the young pianist's first appearance on the concert platform.* | *Please address your remarks to the platform.* (=to the people on the platform) | (fig.) *Television should not provide a platform for terrorists' views.* (=a place where they can express their views publicly) **3** *BrE* the open part at the end of a DOUBLE-DECKER bus, where passengers enter and leave. Open platforms are increasingly being replaced by double doors. **4** [*usu. sing.*] the main ideas and aims of a political party, esp. as stated before an election: *What will be the main plank (=principle or promise) in your party's platform?*

platform² *adj* [A] (of a shoe or part of a shoe) unusually high because of an additional thickness of material: *platform soles*

Plath /plæθ/, **Syl-vi-a** /ˈsɪlvɪə/ (1932–63) an American poet, famous for poems about women and about death, and for her NOVEL (=story) *The Bell Jar*. She killed herself after many years of unhappiness.

plat-i-num /ˈplætɪnəm/ *n* [U] a greyish-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT) that does not become dirty or impure and is used esp. in very valuable jewellery and in chemical industries: *a platinum ring* | *This ring is (made of) platinum.*

platinum blonde /ɪˌˌ ˈ/ *n infml* a young woman having light silver-grey hair, often not natural but coloured with chemicals —compare PEROXIDE BLONDE

plat-i-tude /ˈplætɪtjuːd||-tuːd/ *n derog* a statement that is true but not new, interesting, or clever: *a very uninspiring speech full of platitudes* —compare CLICHE, COMMON-PLACE² —**tudinous** /ˌplætɪˈtjuːdɪnəs||-ˈtuː-/ *adj*

Pla-to /ˈpleɪtəʊ/ (427–347 BC) a Greek think (PHILOSOPHER) who explained his ideas in the form of written conversations. His most famous work is the *Republic*, about the perfect state and form of government.

pla-ton-ic /pləˈtɒnɪk||-ˈtɑː-/ *adj* (of a relationship between a man and woman) just friendly, not sexual —**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pla-toon /pləˈtuːn/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] a small group of soldiers which is part of a COMPANY and is commanded by a LIEUTENANT

plat-ter /ˈplætər/ *n* **1** *AmE* for a large PLATE¹ (1) **2** *old use* a flat dish, usu. made of wood **3** *AmE infml* RECORD² (4): *Your favourite DJ will be spinning the platters from 4 to 6 this afternoon.*

plat-y-pus /ˈplætɪpəs/ also **duckbilled platypus**— *n* a small furry Australian animal that has a beak and feet like a duck's, lays eggs, and gives milk to its young

plau-dit /ˈplɔːdɪt/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml* or *pomp* praise: *Her performance won/earned the plaudits of the critics.* (=they praised it)

plau-si-ble /'plɔːzəbəl/ *adj* often *derog* 1 (of a statement, argument, etc.) seeming to be true or reasonable: *Your explanation sounds plausible, but I'm not sure I believe it.* —compare **FEASIBLE** 2 (of a person) skilled in producing statements that seem reasonable, but which may not be true: *a plausible rogue* —opposite **implausible** —**bly** *adv* —**bility** /,plɔːzə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

play¹ /pleɪ/ *n* 1 [U] activity for amusement only, esp. among children: *the happy laughter of children at play* | *She only did it in play — she didn't really mean it.* 2 [C] a piece of writing (to be) performed by actors in a theatre or on television or radio: *one of Shakespeare's best-known plays* | *He has written a new TV play.* | *The college drama society are going to put on (=perform) a play.* 3 [U] the action in a sport: *We've had an interesting day's play in the cricket match.* | *Rain stopped play.* | *unfair play* 4 [U] *fml* the state of being in effect or operation: *He had to bring all his experience into play (=use all his experience) to beat this difficult opponent.* | *Now that television has become important in elections, a new set of circumstances has come into play.* 5 [U] freedom of movement given by slight looseness: *There's too much play in the steering wheel.* | (fig.) *He gave full/free play to his feelings and began to shout angrily.* 6 [S] an act intended to bring about a particular result: *He decided to make a play for the girl. (=to try to attract her)* 7 [(the) S] esp. *lit* light, quick, not lasting movement: *the play of sunshine and shadow among the trees* 8 **in/into/out of play** (of the ball in football, cricket, etc.) in/into/not in a position where the rules of the game allow it to be played: *The defender kicked the ball out of play.* —see also **CHILD'S PLAY**, **FAIR PLAY**; see **RECREATION (USAGE)**

play² *v* 1 [I (with)] (esp. of children) to amuse oneself with a game, using toys, running and jumping, etc.: *Can Bob come out to play (with me)?* | *The children were playing with their train set.* 2 [I;T (on, for, to)] **a** to produce sounds (from): *The radio was playing very loudly.* | *He just sits in his room playing records on his stereo.* **b** to perform (a piece of music) on (a musical instrument): *A world-famous violinist is playing at tonight's concert.* | *She plays the piano well.* | *He'd written a tune, and played it for/to us on the piano.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *He played us a tune on the piano.* 3 [I;T (against, for)] to take part in (a sport or game): *Our best defender is injured and won't be able to play today.* | *He plays cricket for England.* | *Can you play chess?* | *England are playing France (=playing against them) at football tomorrow.* 4 [T (on)] to plan and carry out for one's own amusement or gain: *They played a joke on me.* | (fig.) *I thought my eyes must be playing tricks on me. (=deceiving me)* 5 [I+adv/prep;T] **a** (of an actor or theatre group) to perform (in): *(The part of) Othello was played by Olivier.* | *Olivier is playing in "Othello" at the National Theatre.* | (fig.) *The United States played a key role in getting the hostages released.* **b** (of a play or film) to be performed or shown: *"Gone with the Wind" is playing at the Odeon.* 6 [L] to pretend to be: *She likes to play the great lady. (=behave in a very grand way)* | *The children are playing doctors and nurses.* | *He played dead.* | (fig.) *You're always playing the fool. (=behaving in a silly way)* 7 [T+obj+adv/prep] to hit and send (a ball): *She played the ball just over the net.* 8 [T] to place (a playing card) face upwards on the table: *Shall I play my jack or my queen?* 9 [I+adv/prep] often *lit* to move quickly, irregularly, or continuously: *A smile played across her lips.* | *She watched the sunlight playing on the water.* 10 [T+obj+adv/prep] to aim or direct, esp. continuously: *The firemen played their hoses on the burning buildings.* 11 [T+obj+adv/prep] *infml* to deal with; handle: *"I don't know how you want to play this meeting."* | *"It could be rather tricky, so we'd better play it carefully."* 12 **play ball** *infml* to agree to do what someone else has suggested; **COOPERATE**: *We wanted to get the union's agreement on the new procedures, but they wouldn't play ball (with us).* 13 **play for time** to cause delay, in order to gain more time 14 **play hard to get** *infml* to pretend one is not sexually interested in someone in order to make them more interested 15 **play hooky/hookey** —see **HOOKY** 16 **play into someone's hands** to behave in a way that gives someone an advantage over one 17 **play it again**, **Sam** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the film *Casablanca*, now used humorously when asking someone to play a piece of music again 18 **play it by ear** to act according to changing conditions, rather than making fixed plans in advance

19 **play it cool** *infml* to behave in a calm and unexcited way; not lose one's temper 20 **play (it) safe** *infml* to act in such a way that one has the best chance of avoiding trouble: *It may not rain, but you'd better play (it) safe and take a raincoat.* 21 **play one's cards right/properly** *infml* to use well whatever chances, conditions, facts, etc., one has: *If you play your cards right you could make a nice little profit out of this job.* 22 **play the devil with** to do a lot of harm to: *Snow storms are playing the devil with food deliveries to the area.* 23 **play the field** *infml*, esp. *AmE* to have social and perhaps sexual relations with more than one partner of the opposite sex 24 **play the game** *infml* to be fair, honest, and honourable 25 **play the market** to buy and sell business shares in order to try to make money 26 **play to the gallery** to do what will please most people in order to gain popularity, even if it is not the most sensible course of action

play about/around *phr v* [I] 1 to spend time having fun 2 [(with)] to have a non-serious sexual relationship: *He's always playing around with other men's wives.*

play along *phr v* 1 [I (with)] to pretend to agree (with someone or someone's ideas), esp. so as to gain an advantage or avoid trouble 2 [T] (**play sbdy. along**) to deceive (someone) by making them think one is soon going to do something for them

play at sthg. *phr v* [T+obj/v-ing] 1 (of children) to pretend to be or do for fun: *little boys playing at (being) soldiers* 2 to do in a way that is not very serious: *His parents are so rich that he can just play at business/at being a businessman.* | (showing annoyance or impatience) *What (the hell) do you think you're playing at? — You can't change a wheel that way!*

play sthg. ↔ back *phr v* [T] to play (something that has just been recorded on a machine) so as to listen to it or look at it —see also **PLAYBACK**

play sthg. ↔ down *phr v* [T] to make (something) seem less important: *The government is trying to play down its role in the affair. (=trying to make it seem that it did not take an important part in it)* —opposite **play up**

play sbdy. in *phr v* [T] to get (oneself) used to playing at the beginning of a game: *I need a few more minutes to play myself in.* | (fig.) *She's still playing herself into her new job as sales director.*

play off *phr v* 1 [T (against)] (**play sbdy./sthg. ↔ off**) to set (people or things) in opposition, esp. for one's own advantage: *She played her two boyfriends off (against each other).* 2 [I] to play another match in order to decide who wins: *The losing semifinalists will play off for third place.* —see also **PLAY-OFF**

play on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to try to use or encourage (esp. the feelings of others) for one's own advantage; **EXPLOIT**: *This film about handicapped people is just playing on people's sympathy.*

play sthg. ↔ out *phr v* [T] to continue (a game or struggle) until a result is gained: *Shall we call it a draw, or play it out?* —see also **PLAYED OUT**

play up *phr v* 1 [T] (**play sthg. ↔ up**) to give special importance to; **EMPHASIZE**: *In the interview you should play up your experience of working abroad.* —opposite **play down** 2 [I;T (=play sbdy. ↔ up)] to cause trouble or suffering (to): *My bad leg has been playing up again.*

play up to sbdy. *phr v* [T] often *derog* to behave so as to win the favour of: *She's always playing up to the boss.*

play with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to consider (an idea) not very seriously: *She's been playing with the idea of starting her own business.* 2 **play with oneself** *euph* for **MASTURBATE** 3 **to play with** that one can use; **AVAILABLE**: *We haven't got a lot of time to play with, so we'd better hurry up.* —see also **PLAY² (1)**, **play with fire** (**FIRE¹**)

play-a-ble /'pleɪəbəl/ *adj* 1 (of a piece of ground used for sports) fit to be played on —see also **UNPLAYABLE** 2 (of music) not too difficult to be played

play-act /'plɔː- / *v* [I] often *derog* to behave in a non-serious way, esp. by pretending things that are not true — **ing** *n* [U]

play-back /'pleɪbæk/ also **replay**— *n* a recording of something heard or seen, esp. on television, that is played at once after it is made, so that one can study it carefully: *a video playback machine* —see also **PLAY back**

play-boy /'pleɪbɔɪ/ *n* sometimes *derog* a wealthy man who lives a life of expensive pleasure, doing no work. Playboys are thought of as enjoying fast cars and the company of many beautiful women: *a middle-aged playboy* | *his playboy lifestyle*

Playboy a magazine for men which has serious articles but is known esp. for its pictures of women wearing very few clothes and its articles on sex

Play-Doh /'pleɪ dəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of play dough

play dough /'lɪ - / *n* [U] *AmE* a soft clay-like substance which children use to make brightly coloured models

played-out /,lɪ - / *adj* **1** having lost one's former powers, ability, etc. **2** *derog* of no further use; old-fashioned: *played-out ideas* —see also **PLAY out**

play-er /'pleɪə/ *n* **1** a person taking part in a game or sport **2** a person playing a musical instrument **3** *esp. old use or pomp* an actor —see also **RECORD PLAYER**

player pi-an-o /,lɪ - / also **Pianola** *tdmk*— *n* a piano that is played by machinery, the music being controlled by a continuous roll of paper (**piano roll**) with holes cut into it for the notes

Play-er's /'pleɪəz/ *tdmk* the name of a kind of cigarette

play-fel-low /'pleɪ,feləʊ/ *n* *BrE* a **PLAYMATE**

play-ful /'pleɪfəl/ *adj* **1** happily active; full of fun: *a playful little dog* **2** not intended seriously: *a playful kiss on the cheek* —*ly adv* —*ness n* [U]

play-go-er /'pleɪ,gəʊə/ *n* a person who goes to see plays, esp. regularly

play-ground /'pleɪgraʊnd/ *n* **1** a piece of ground kept for children to play on, esp. at a school or in a park. Playgrounds in parks usu. contain **SWINGS**, **ROUNDAABOUTS** and slides. —compare **PLAYING FIELD** **2** an area where esp. the stated people go for enjoyment: *The South of France is the playground of the rich.* **3** *AmE* for **RECREATION GROUND**

play-group /'pleɪgru:p/ also **pre-school playgroup**, **playschool**— *n* *esp. BrE* a group in which children aged 2–5 meet to learn through playing. Playgroups started in Britain in the 1960s because the British government did not provide many schools for children this age: *Robert's at playgroup today.* —compare **CRECHE**, **NURSERY**, **NURSERY SCHOOL** and see also extra information on page 408

play-house /'pleɪhaʊs/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ **1** (often *cap.* as part of a name) a theatre: *the Oxford Playhouse* **2** a hut built to look like a small house, for children to play in

playing card /'lɪ - / *n* *fml* for **CARD**³ (1)

playing field /'lɪ - / *n* a large piece of ground with particular areas marked out for playing such games as football and cricket

play-mate /'pleɪmeɪt/ also **playfellow** *BrE*— *n* *old-fash* a friend who shares in children's games and play: *The little boy's chief playmate was his dog.* | *We were childhood playmates.*

play-off /'lɪ - / *n* a second match played to decide who wins, when the first has not done so —compare **RUN-OFF**; see also **PLAY**² **off** (2)

play on words /,lɪ - / *n* **plays on words** [*usu. sing.*] a **PUN**¹

play-pen /'pleɪpen/ *n* a frame enclosed by bars or a net and placed on the floor for a small child to play safely in

play-room /'pleɪrʊm, -ru:m/ *n* a room for children to play in

play-school /'pleɪsku:l/ *n* *BrE* a **PLAYGROUP**

play-thing /'pleɪ,θɪŋ/ *n* **1** *fml* a toy **2** *esp. lit* a person who is treated without seriousness or consideration by another: *He was just her plaything.* | *Are we the playthings of fate?* (=Are we not free to decide our own actions?)

play-time /'pleɪtaɪm/ *n* [U] a (short) period of time, esp. at a school, when children can go out to play

play-wright /'pleɪraɪt/ *n* a writer of plays

pla-za /'plɑ:zə/ *n* **1** a public square or marketplace, esp. in towns in Spanish-speaking countries **2** a group of shops and other **COMMERCIAL** buildings in a town: *a shopping plaza*

Plaza [*the*] a common name for a cinema, esp. in the past

plc /,pi: el 'sɪz/ *abbrev. for:* **PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY**: *Marks & Spencer plc* —compare **INC**, **LIMITED** (2)

plea /pli:/ *n* **1** [**C (for)**] *fml* an urgent or serious request: *a plea for mercy/forgiveness* **2** [**C (of)**] *usu. sing.* law a statement by someone in a court of law, saying whether or not they are guilty of a charge: *The accused entered a plea of "not guilty."* **3** [**S**] rare an excuse: *She left early on the plea of having a headache.*

plea bar-gain-ing /'lɪ - / *n* [U] the practice of agreeing to say in a court of law that one is guilty of a small crime in exchange for not being charged with a greater one

plead /plɪz/ *v* **pleaded** or **pled** /pled/ *esp. ScotE & AmE*— **1** [**I (for)**] to ask very strongly and seriously and in a begging way: *They wept and pleaded until we agreed to do as they wished.* | *She pleaded for more time to pay.* [+**with+to-v**] *He pleaded with them to release his daughter.* **2** [**T**] to give as an excuse for an action: *I'm sorry I didn't answer your letter — I can only plead forgetfulness.* **3** [**I**] law to answer a charge in court: *The woman charged with murder was said to be mad and unfit to plead.* **4** [**T no pass.**] law to declare in official language that one is (in a state of): *"Prisoner at the bar, how do you plead?" "I plead not guilty."* | *He pleaded insanity in the hope of getting a shorter sentence.* **5** [**T**] to speak or argue in support of: *The poor and unemployed have no one to plead their case for them.* —see also **SPECIAL PLEADING**

pleas-ant /'plezənt/ *adj* **1** giving one a feeling of enjoyment or happiness: *What a pleasant surprise!* | *a flower with a pleasant smell* **2** (esp. of a person) likeable; friendly: *She seems a pleasant woman.* | *I know you're annoyed, but please make an effort to be pleasant to him.* | *a pleasant smile* **3** (of weather) fine: *It's quite pleasant today, though the wind is rather cool.* —opposite **unpleasant** —*ly adv*

pleas-ant-ry /'plezəntri/ *n* *fml* an amusing or not very serious remark made esp. in order to be polite: *They exchanged the usual pleasantries before getting down to discussing business.*

please¹ /pli:z/ *v* [*not in progressive forms*] **1** [**I;T**] to make (someone) happy; give satisfaction (to): *The girl in the shop is always eager to please (everyone).* | *I didn't want it myself; I only got it to please you.* | *He wasn't at all pleased (=was angry) when he found out.* | *There's no pleasing some people.* (=It is impossible to satisfy certain people.) —opposite **displease** **2** [**I+adv/prep**] (not as the main verb of a sentence) to want; like: *You can have wine, beer, fruit juice — whichever you please.* | *He just does what he pleases and never thinks about anyone else.* | *They can appoint whoever they please.* **3** **if you please:** a *fml* (used to give force after a request) **PLEASE**² (1): *Come this way, if you please.* **b** *old-fash* can you believe this?: *He's broken my bicycle, and now, if you please, he wants me to get it mended so that he can use it again!* **4** **please God** *fml* I hope: *Please God they'll all return safely.* **5** **please oneself:** **a** to do whatever one likes, without having to obey others: *We don't have to be back in the hotel by a certain time; we can just please ourselves.* **b** [*imperative*] *infml* (esp. showing annoyance) Do whatever you like, it doesn't matter to me

please² *interj* **1** (used when asking politely for something). It is considered rude not to say "please" if one does not know the other person very well indeed: *A cup of tea, please.* | *Can we go now, please?* **2** (used to give force to a request or wish): *Please, sir, I don't understand!* | *Will you please keep quiet!* **3** *usu.* **yes, please**—yes I accept and am grateful: *"Would you like a cup of coffee?" "Please, I'd love one."*

pleased /plɪ:zd/ *adj* **1** [(**with, about**)] happy or satisfied: *I always feel pleased when I've finished a piece of work.* | *She had a pleased look on her face.* | *Are you pleased with your new car?* (=is it satisfactory) | *"She's given up that boyfriend of hers."* "I'm pleased about that." [+*(that)*] *I'm very pleased you've decided to come.* [+*to-v*] *We were pleased to hear about your new job.* | *"(I'm) pleased to meet you."* (=said when meeting someone for the first time) **2** **be pleased to (do something):** **a** *polite* to be very willing to; be glad to: *We will be pleased to offer any assistance you need.* **b** *fml* to have decided (as an act of favour) to: *The Queen is graciously pleased to invite you to next month's garden party.* **3** **pleased with oneself** often *derog* (too) satisfied with what one has done: *He was looking very pleased with himself so I guessed he'd passed his driving test.*

pleas-ing /'plɪ:zɪŋ/ *adj* [(**to**)] *fml* or *pomp* **1** likeable; giving delight or enjoyment; pleasant: *a pleasing young man* | *This wine is most pleasing to the taste.* **2** giving satisfaction: *We have made pleasing progress in our talks.* —*ly adv*

plea-sur-a-ble /'pleɪzərəbəl/ *adj* *fml* enjoyable: *I trust that you had a pleasurable journey.* —*bly adv*: *feeling pleasantly mellow after a good meal*

plea-sure /'pleʒə/ *n* 1 [U] the state or feeling of happiness or satisfaction resulting from an experience that one enjoys: *small gifts that give a lot of pleasure and don't cost much* | *how to get more pleasure out of sex* | *It gave me no pleasure to have to tell them they were fired; I take no pleasure in (=do not enjoy) such things.* —opposite **dis-pleasure** 2 [U] doing things for fun rather than as work: *Are you here on business or for pleasure?* | *a pleasure cruise* 3 [C] a cause of happiness, enjoyment, or satisfaction: *It's been a great pleasure to talk to you.* | *Some old people have very few pleasures in life.* 4 [S (of)] polite enjoyment gained by doing or having something: *May I have the pleasure of the next dance with you?* | *I had the pleasure of meeting your parents yesterday.* 5 [S] polite something that is not inconvenient and that one is happy to do; an expression often used to be polite even if the speaker is not happy: *"Thank you for helping me."* *"My pleasure/It was a pleasure."* 6 [S] *fml* or *polite* desire; wish: *These arrangements can be changed at your pleasure.* (=as you wish or decide) | *Is it your pleasure that I sign the minutes of the last meeting as correct?* 7 **during his/her majesty's pleasure** *BrE* law with no fixed limit on the time one is kept in prison 8 **with pleasure** *polite* willingly: *"Would you take this along to the office for me?"* *"With pleasure."*

pleasure beach /'..-/ *n BrE* a place of outdoor entertainment at the seaside, with large machines to ride on and other amusements —compare **FAIR**

pleasure seek-er /'..-/ *n* somebody who does something for enjoyment without considering other people

pleat¹ /pli:t/ *n* a flattened narrow fold in cloth

pleat² *v* [T] to make pleats in: *a pleated skirt*

pleb /pleb/ *n* [often *pl.*] *infml derog* a member of the lower social classes — *~ by adj*

plebe /pli:b/ *n AmE infml* a first-year student at a military or naval college or university

ple-be-ian /pli'bi:ən/ *n, adj* 1 *derog* (a member) of the lower social classes: *plebeian tastes in food* 2 (in ancient Rome) (a member) of the common people —compare **PATRICIAN**

pleb-is-cite /'plebɪsɪt|-saɪt/ *n* a direct vote of the people of a country to decide a matter of national importance: *The choice of whether to join the federation was decided by plebiscite.* —compare **REFERENDUM**

plec-trum /'plektrəm/ also **pick** *BrE infml BrE||pick AmE—* *n* a small thin piece of plastic, metal, etc. held between the fingers and used for playing certain stringed instruments, such as the **GUITAR**, by quickly pulling at the strings

pled /pled/ *ScotE & AmE past tense & participle of PLEAD*

pledge¹ /pledʒ/ *n* 1 [C] (esp. in newspapers) a solemn promise or agreement: [+to-*v*] *They made a firm pledge to support us.* | *an election pledge to reduce taxes* [+that] *The government has given a pledge that it will halt the bombing.* 2 [C (of)] something given or received as a sign of faithful love or friendship: *Take this ring as a pledge of our friendship.* 3 [C] something valuable left with someone else as proof that one will fulfil an agreement: *She borrowed £50 and left her gold bracelet as a pledge.* 4 **sign/take the pledge** *old-fash* to promise never to drink alcohol

pledge² *v* [T] 1 (esp. in newspapers) to make a solemn promise of: *They have pledged their support for our case.* | *The firm has most generously pledged (=promised to give) £10,000 as its contribution to the charity.* | *a nation pledging allegiance (=loyalty) to the flag* [+to-*v*] *The government pledged to re-house the refugees.* [+that] *They have pledged that any details given to them will remain confidential.* 2 [(to)] *fml* to make (someone) give a solemn promise: *I was pledged to secrecy.* [+obj+to-*v*] *They pledged themselves never to tell the secret.* 3 [(for)] *rare* to leave (something) with someone as a **PLEDGE**¹ (3)

Pledge of Al-le-giance /'..-.'..-/ [*the*] a solemn promise to respect and be loyal to the United States of America. Most schoolchildren in the US say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning while putting their hands over their hearts and facing the flag.

Plei-a-des /'pleɪədɪz||'pli:z/ [*the* +P] 1 a group of stars in the **CONSTELLATION** Taurus 2 in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, the seven daughters of Atlas who were changed into stars by Zeus

pleis-to-cene /'plaɪstə:ɪn/ *adj* of the period in the Earth's history which started about 1,000,000 years ago and lasted about 800,000 years, when much of the Earth was covered with ice

ple-na-ry /'plɪ:nəri/ *adj* [*no comp.*] *fml* or *tech* 1 (of a meeting) attended by everyone who has the right to attend: *Will you be at the plenary session of the conference?* 2 (of power of government) complete; without limit: *The envoy was given plenary powers to negotiate with the rebels.*

plen-i-po-ten-tia-ry /,plenɪpə'tenʃəri||-ʃɪəri/ *n, adj fml* or *tech* (someone) having full power to take action or make decisions, esp. as a representative of their government in a foreign country: [after *n*] *a minister plenipotentiary*

plen-i-tude /'plenɪtju:d||-tu:d/ *n* [U] *pomp* 1 completeness; fullness 2 plenty; a great amount

plen-te-ous /'plentiəs/ *adj esp. poet* plentiful: *a plenteous harvest* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

plen-ti-ful /'plentiʃəl/ *adj* (more than) enough in quantity: *a plentiful supply of cheap fuel* — *~ly adv*: *a cupboard plentifully stocked with food*

plen-ty¹ /'plenti/ *pron* often *apprec* a large quantity or number; enough or more than enough: *"Do you need any more money?"* *"No, we have £100 and that's plenty."* | *Make sure there is plenty (of food) for everyone.* | *If you want some chairs, there are plenty more in here.* | *I gave the boys plenty to eat.* | *Plenty of foreign firms have set up factories here.* | *There's plenty of room for everyone inside.* — compare **FEW**, **LOT**¹ (1)

plenty² *n* [U] *fml* 1 the state of having a large supply of something, esp. of what is needed for life: *In years of plenty everyone has enough to eat.* 2 **in plenty** in large supply; enough: *It was boom time, and there was work in plenty for everyone.* —see also **HORN OF PLENTY**

plenty³ *adv infml* 1 quite: *There's no need to add any more — it's plenty big enough already.* 2 *AmE infml* to quite a large degree; very: *I'm plenty hungry, you guys.*

ple-o-nas-m /'pli:ənæzəm/ *n* [C;U] *tech* (a) use of more words than are needed to express an idea: *The phrase "an apple divided into two halves" is a pleonasm.* —**nastic** /,pliə'næstɪk-/ *adj*

Ples-sy vs. Fer-gu-son /,pleɪsɪ vɜ:səs 'fɜ:gəsən||-vɜ:rsəs 'fɜ:r-/ *law* (the court case which resulted in) a decision by the American SUPREME COURT in 1896 that SEGREGATION (=separation) of blacks from whites was legal, as long as they were given SEPARATE BUT EQUAL services. The decision related specifically to segregation on trains, but led in some states to separate schools, hotels, restaurants, seats in theatres, buses, etc. The Plessy vs. Ferguson decision was changed in 1955 by **BROWN VS BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA**. —see also **CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

pleth-o-ra /'pleθərə/ *n* [S (of)] *fml* an amount or supply much greater than is needed or than one can deal with: *a plethora of suggestions* | *a plethora of classical music on the radio*

pleu-ri-sy /'pluəri:si/ *n* [U] a disease of the thin inner covering of the chest that surrounds the lungs, causing pain in the chest and sides

plex-i-glass /'pleksi,glɑ:s||-glæs/ *n* [U] *tdmk, AmE* for **PERSPEX**

pli-a-ble /'plaɪəbəl/ *adj* 1 easily bent without breaking: *pliable metal* 2 able and willing to change or to accept new ways and ideas; **ADAPTABLE** 3 *usu. derog* easily influenced; pliant —**bility** /,plaɪə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

pli-ant /'plaɪənt/ *adj* 1 *usu. derog* easily influenced; accepting the wishes or commands of others 2 **PLIABLE** (1,2) — *~ly adv* —**-ancy n** [U]

pli-ers /'plaɪəz||-ərz/ *n* [P] a small tool made of two crossed pieces of metal with long flat jaws at one end, used to hold small things or to bend and cut wire —compare **PINCERS**; see **PAIR (USAGE)**, and see picture at **TOOL**

plight¹ /plaɪt/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a (bad, serious, or sad) condition or situation: *We are all moved by the plight of these poor homeless children.*

plight² *v* **plight one's troth** *old use* to make a promise of marriage

plim-soll /'plɪmsəl, -səʊl/ also **gymshoe** *BrE || sneaker AmE—* *n* a light shoe with a top made of heavy cloth and a flat rubber bottom, used esp. for games and sports — see **PAIR (USAGE)**, and see picture at **SHOE**

Plimsoll line /'plɪmsɒl/ also **Plimsoll mark**— *n* a line painted on the outside of a ship showing the depth to which it can be allowed to go down in the water when loaded

plinth /plɪnθ/ *n* a square block, usu. of stone, which forms the base of a **PILLAR** or **STATUE**

Plin-y the El-der /,plɪni ði 'eldə/ (23–79 AD) a Roman writer on the study of plants, animals, and minerals

Pliny the Young-er /,plɪni ði 'juːŋə/ (72?–?113) a Roman politician known for his letters, which give a picture of Roman life in his time

pli-o-cene /'plaɪəsiːn/ *adj* of the period in the Earth's history which started about 13,000,000 years ago and lasted about 12,000,000 years

PLO /,piː el 'əʊ/ [*the*] the Palestine Liberation Organization; a political association of Palestinians who believe that the Israeli controlled land that used to be Palestine should be returned to them

plod /plɒd/ *v* -dd- 1 [*I+adv/prep*] to walk slowly along, esp. with difficulty and great effort; **TRUDGE**: *The carthorse plodded along/plodded up the hill pulling the load behind it.* 2 [*I+adv/prep*, esp. **AWAY**, **ON**] to work steadily, esp. at something uninteresting: *She plods away quietly in her corner.* | *I'll plod on (=continue to work) for another hour and then take a break.*

Plod, P.C. *BrE* a name used in jokes and **CARTOONS** for an old-fashioned British policeman who is not very clever

plod-der /'plɒdə/ *n* usu. *derog* a slow, not very clever, but steady worker who often succeeds in the end

plonk /plɒŋk/ *n* [*S*] *infml* a sound like something dropping onto or into a metal object — **plonk** *adv* [*+prep*]: *It fell plonk onto the floor.*

plonk *v* [*T+obj+adv/prep*] *infml* to put, esp. heavily or with force: *Just plonk those parcels down over there.* | *She plonked herself in the chair and refused to move.*

plonk *n* [*U*] *infml*, esp. *BrE* & *Austr E* cheap wine

plop /plɒp/ *n* [*S*] *infml* a sound like something solid dropping smoothly into liquid: *There was a loud plop as the soap fell into the bath.* — **plop** *adv* [*+prep*]: *The soap fell plop into the bath.*

plop *v* -pp- [*I+adv/prep*, esp. **into**] *infml* to fall with or make a plop: *The stone plopped into the stream.*

plo-sive /'pləʊsɪv/ *adj*, *n* *tech* (a consonant sound such as /t/ or /g/) made by stopping the air completely and then suddenly letting it out of the mouth

plot /plɒt/ *n* 1 the set of connected events on which a story, play, film, etc., is based: *The plot was so complicated that I couldn't follow it.* 2 a secret plan to do something harmful, needing combined action by several people: *an IRA bomb plot* [*+to-v*] *The police have uncovered a plot to assassinate the president.* 3 a small marked or measured piece of ground for building or growing things: *I grow potatoes on my little plot of land.* | *a vegetable plot* 4 *AmE* for **GROUND PLAN** 5 the **plot thickens** *humor* a phrase used when events seem to be becoming more difficult to understand

plot *v* -tt- 1 [*I (against); T*] (of a group of people) to make a secret plan for (something harmful): *They're plotting against him.* | *They're plotting his murder.* [*+to-v*] *They're plotting to kill him.* 2 [*T*] to mark, calculate, or follow (the position of a moving aircraft or ship) on a map or using **RADAR**: *The captain plotted a new course.* 3 [*T*] to draw (a line or curve showing certain facts) on paper marked with small squares: *We've plotted (a graph showing) the increase in sales this year.* 4 [*T (OUT)*] to make a **PLOT** (1) for (a story) — *~ter* *n* [*usu. pl.*]

plough *n* || *usu. plow* *AmE* /plau/ *n* a farming tool with a heavy cutting blade for breaking up and turning over the earth in fields, esp. so that seeds can be planted: *Ploughs are pulled by tractors, or in some countries by oxen.* — see also **SNOWPLOW**

plough *v* || *usu. plow* *AmE* — *v* 1 [*I; T (UP)*] to break up or turn over (land) with a plough: *Farmers plough (their fields) in autumn or spring.* 2 [*I+adv/prep*] to force a way or make a track, sometimes violently: *The great ship ploughed across the ocean.* | *The van's brakes failed, and it ploughed into a crowd of people.* | (fig.) *He ploughed through the book to the end.* (=He finished the book although it was dull and difficult to read.) 3 **We plough the fields and scatter** the first line of a religious song

sung at Harvest Festival to celebrate the gathering in of the year's crops

plough sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [*T (into)*] to put (money earned) back into a business so as to make the business more successful: *They ploughed the profits back into the firm in order to buy new equipment.*

Plough *esp. BrE* || *usu. Big Dipper* *AmE* — [*the*] a group of seven bright stars (= **CONSTELLATION**) seen only from the northern part of the world

plough-boy /'plauɔɪ/ *n* (*esp. in former times*) a boy who leads a horse pulling a plough

plough-man /'plaumən/ *n* -men /mən/ a man whose job is to guide a plough, esp. of the type pulled by animals

plough-man's lunch /,plau 'mɑːn/ also **ploughman's** — *n* *BrE* a simple midday meal, usu. bread, cheese, and onion eaten in a **PUB**

plough-share /'plauʃeə/ also **share** — *n* the broad curved metal blade of a plough which turns over the soil

plov-er /'plavə/ *n* **plovers** or **plover** a type of small bird that usu. lives near the sea

plow /plau/ *n, v* *AmE* for **PLOUGH**

ploy /plɔɪ/ *n* something done in order to gain an often unfair advantage; **TACTIC**: *His usual ploy is to pretend to be ill, so that people will feel sorry for him.* | *The offer was widely viewed as a management ploy to weaken support for the union among the workforce.*

PLR /,piː el 'ɑː/ *abbrev. for*: **PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT**

pluck /plʌk/ *v* 1 [*T*] to pull the feathers off (a dead hen, duck, etc., being prepared for cooking) 2 [*T (OUT, from, off)*] to pull (esp. something unwanted) out sharply: *Do you pluck your eyebrows?* (=remove hairs to improve their shape) | *She tried to pluck out some of her grey hairs.* | (fig.) *He was plucked from obscurity to star in the new musical.* 3 [*I (at); T*] || also **pick** *AmE* — to play (a stringed instrument) by quickly pulling (the strings) 4 [*T*] esp. poet to pick (a flower, fruit, or leaf): *He plucked a rose for his lover.*

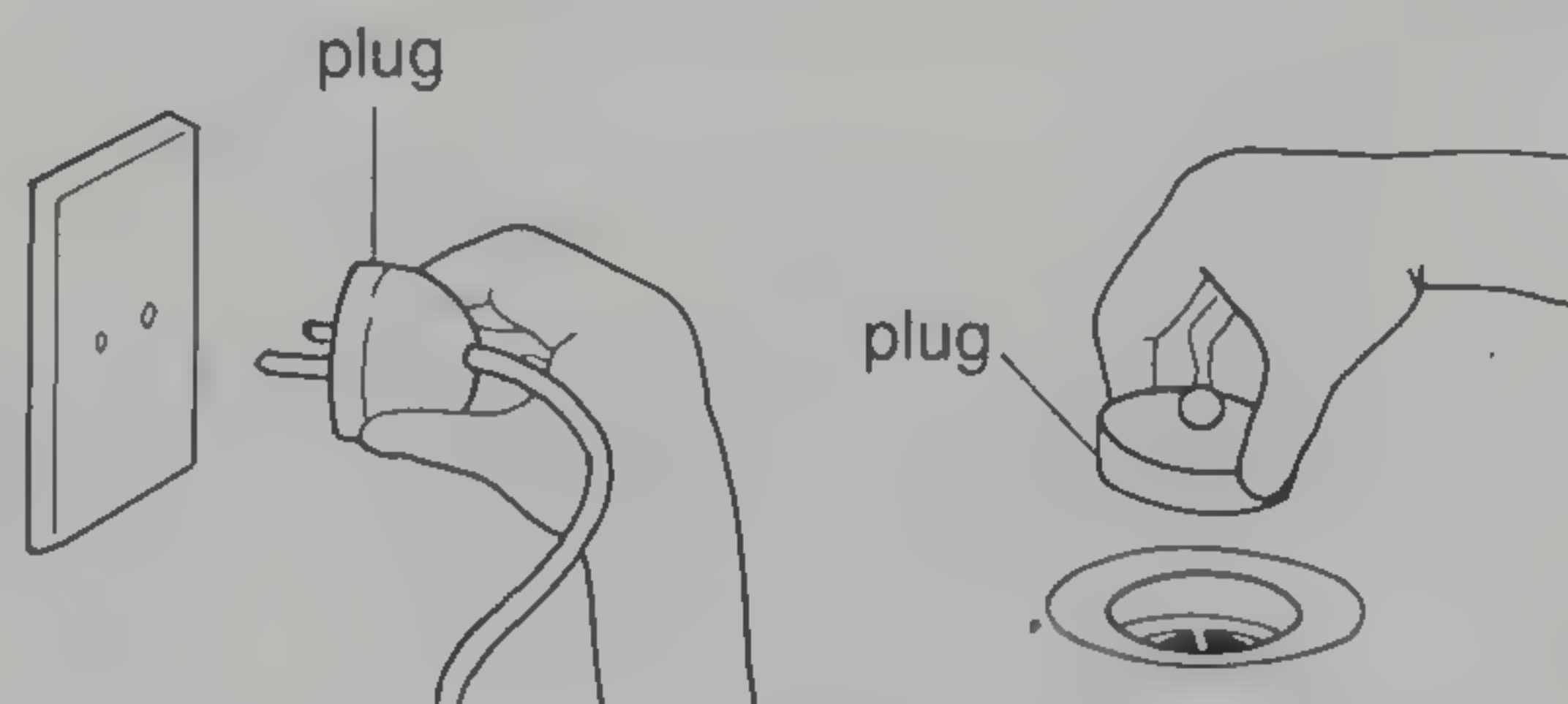
pluck at sthg. *phr v* [*T*] to pull quickly and repeatedly with the fingers: *The little boy plucked at her sleeve to try and get her attention.*

pluck up *phr v* **pluck up (one's) courage** to show bravery in spite of fear: *He couldn't pluck up enough courage to ask her to go out with him.*

pluck *n* [*U*] *infml* *apprec* courage and determination: *She showed a lot of pluck to leave a safe job and set up her own business.*

pluck-y /'plʌki/ *adj* *infml* *apprec* brave and determined, esp. in an unexpected way — *ily* *adv* — *iness* *n* [*U*]

plugs



plug /plʌg/ *n* 1 a small usu. round piece of rubber, wood, metal, etc., used for blocking a hole, esp. in something that contains liquid: *She pulled the plug out of the bath and the dirty water ran away.* 2 a small plastic object with two or three metal pins that are pushed into an electric **SOCKET** to connect an apparatus with the electricity supply **b not tech** an electric **SOCKET**; **POINT** (15) 3 *infml* a publicly stated favourable opinion about a record, a product, a book, etc., that is intended to make people want to buy it, hear it, read it, etc.: *The TV compere gave her new record a plug.* — see also **PLUG** (2) 4 *infml* for **SPARK PLUG** 5 **pull the plug on** *infml* to discontinue suddenly; prevent from continuing: *The government pulled the plug on the project when it became too expensive.*

plug *v* -gg- [*T*] 1 [(**UP**)] to block, close, or fill with a **PLUG** (1): *Use this wad of cloth to plug (the hole in) the barrel.* — opposite **unplug** 2 *infml* to advertise (something) by continually or repeatedly mentioning it: *He's been*

plugging his new book on the radio. **3** AmE old-fash sl to shoot (someone) with a gun

plug away at sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] *infml* to work determinedly to complete (a difficult job)

plug sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to connect to a supply of electricity with a PLUG¹ (2a): "The television doesn't work." "Have you plugged it in?" —opposite **unplug**

plug into sthg. *phr v* [T] to gain the use of (a system) by making an electrical connection with it: *You can plug into the national computer network.*

plug-hole /'plʌghəʊl/ BrE || **drain** AmE— *n* a hole into which a PLUG¹ (1) is fitted, esp. where water flows away

plum /plʌm/ *n* **1** [C] a roundish sweet juicy smooth-skinned fruit, usu. dark red or yellow, with a single hard nutlike STONE (=seed): *stewed plums* | *plum trees* —see picture at FRUIT **2** [C] *infml* something very desirable or the best of its kind, esp. a good or easy well-paid job: *This new job that he's got is a real plum.* | *She landed (=got) a plum job at the United Nations.* **3** [U] a dark reddish-blue colour

plum-age /'pluːmɪdʒ/ *n* [U] a bird's covering of feathers

plumb¹ /plʌm/ *v* [T] **1** to examine very carefully in order to try to fully understand: *Psychoanalysts plumb the deep mysteries of the human mind.* **2** **plumb the depths (of)** to reach the lowest point (of): *This new play really plumbs the depths of unpleasantness.*

plumb sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] esp. BrE to fix in place and connect to a supply of water: *When's the man coming to plumb in the washing machine?*

plumb² *adv infml* **1** [+adv/prep] exactly: *The bullet hit him plumb between the eyes.* **2** esp. AmE completely: *He's just plumb stupid.*

plumb³ *adj* [F] *tech* **1** exactly upright or level: *Is this wall plumb?* **2** **out of plumb** not exactly upright

plumb-er /'plʌmə/ *n* a person whose job is to fit and repair water pipes, bathroom apparatus, etc.

plumber's friend /'plʌmə/ also **plumber's help-er** /'plʌmə/ — *n* esp. AmE *infml* for PLUNGER (1)

plumb-ing /'plʌmɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** all the water pipes, containers for storing water, etc., in a building: *an old house with noisy plumbing* **2** the work of a plumber

plumb line /'plʌm laɪn/ *n* a piece of string with a piece of lead tied to one end, used for measuring the depth of water or for finding out whether a wall is built exactly upright

plume¹ /pluːm/ *n* **1** [usu. pl.] a feather, esp. a large or showy one worn as a (ceremonial) decoration **2** [(of)] something that rises into the air in a shape rather like that of a feather: *a plume of smoke*

plume² *v* [T] (of a bird) to clean or make smooth (its feathers)

plumed /pluːmd/ *adj* [A] having or decorated with plumes: *a plumed hat*

plum-met /'plʌmɪt/ *v* [I] to fall steeply or suddenly: *The damaged aircraft plummeted towards the earth.* | *Prices have plummeted.* —compare PLUNGE

plum-my /'plʌmɪ/ *adj* BrE **1** *usu. derog* having or being an (unattractively) full-sounding and rich voice, of a type considered typical of the upper class **2** desirable; very good: *a plummy part in the play*

plump¹ /plʌmp/ *adj* *usu. apprec or euph* pleasantly fat; nicely rounded: *a baby with plump little arms and legs* | *a nice plump chicken in the butcher's window* | *I'm too plump to wear this dress.* —see FAT (USAGE) — ~ness *n* [U]

plump² *v*
plump (sthg./sbdy. ↔) **down** *phr v* [I;T (in, on)] *infml* to (cause to) fall suddenly, heavily, or carelessly: *She plumped (herself) down in a chair.*

plump for sthg. *phr v* [T] BrE *infml* to decide in favour of; choose: *We finally plumped for the red car rather than the black one.*

plump sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to make (esp. bed coverings) rounded and soft by shaking: *He plumped up the pillows.*

plum pud-ding /'plʌmpdɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] BrE old-fash for CHRISTMAS PUDDING

plun-der¹ /'plʌndə/ *v* [I (from);T] (esp. of an army, etc.) to take (things) by force and usu. violently from (a place) esp. in time of war or disorder: *They plundered the cap-*

itured town/plundered all the valuable things they could find. — ~er *n*

plunder² *n* [U] **1** (things taken in the course of) plundering **2** stolen goods; LOOT: *The thieves hid their plunder in the cave.*

plunge¹ /plʌndʒ/ *v* **1** [I+adv/prep;T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) move or be thrown suddenly forwards and/or downwards: *The car suddenly stopped and he plunged forward/through the windscreen.* | *She fell from the cliff and plunged to her death.* | *We ran to the edge of the lake and plunged in.* | *He snatched off the lid and plunged his hand in.* | (fig.) *The price of oil has plunged to a new low.* —compare PRECIPITATE¹ (2) **2** [I] (of a ship) to move with the forward end going violently up and down: *The ship plunged dangerously in the rough sea.* **3** [I] (of the neck of a woman's garment) to have a low curve or V-shape that shows a quite large area of the chest: *a plunging neckline*

plunge into *phr v* [T] **1** (**plunge** (sthg.) **into** sbdy./sthg.) to push, jump, or rush suddenly or violently all the way into (something deep, thick, etc.): *He plunged into the water.* | *Firemen plunged into the burning building to rescue the child.* | *She plunged the knife into his back.* **2** (**plunge** sbdy./sthg. **into** sthg.) to bring or force suddenly into (the stated esp. unpleasant condition): *The room was plunged into darkness.* | *These dangerous policies could plunge Europe into a new war/plunge the country into chaos.* **3** (**plunge into** sthg.) to begin suddenly or hastily: *She plunged into a description of her latest illness.*

plunge² *n* [S] **1** an act of plunging, esp. head first into water **2** **take the plunge** to decide on and do something determinedly, after having delayed through uncertainty or nervousness: *After going out together for two years, they decided to take the plunge and get married.*

plung-er /'plʌndʒə/ *n* **1** a rubber cup on the end of a handle, used for unblocking kitchen or bathroom pipes by means of SUCTION **2** a part of a machine that moves up and down

plu-per-fect /pluː'pɜːfɪkt/ —3:r- *adj, n* [the+S] PAST PERFECT

plu-ral /'plʌərəl/ *n, adj* (a word or form) that expresses more than one: "Dogs" is a plural noun. | "Dogs" is the plural of "dog" and "mice" is the plural of "mouse". | *The third person plural, present tense, of the verb "have" is "they have".* —compare SINGULAR¹ (1)

plu-ral-is-m /'plʌərəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** *usu. apprec* the principle that people of different races, religions, and political beliefs can live together peacefully in the same society **2** *usu. derog* the holding of more than one job at a time, esp. in the Church —ist *n, adj* —istic /'plʌərəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

plu-ral-i-ty /plʌə'rælɪti/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* (in grammar) the state of being plural **2** [S (of)] *tech, esp. AmE* the largest number of votes in an election, esp. when less than a MAJORITY

plus¹ /plʌs/ *prep* **1** made more by (the stated quantity); with the addition of: *3 plus 6 is 9. (3+6=9)* | *The cost is a pound plus 50 pence for postage.* —opposite **minus** **2** *infml* and also: *This work needs experience plus care.*

plus² *n* **1** also **plus sign** — a sign (+) showing that two or more numbers are to be added together, or that a number is greater than zero **2** *infml* a welcome or favourable addition; advantage: *Knowledge of French or Spanish could be a plus in this job.* —opposite **minus**

plus³ *adj* **1** [A] (of a number or quantity) greater than zero **2** [A] *infml* additional and desirable: *Her previous experience in social work is a plus factor.* **3** [after *n*] and above (a stated number or mark): *All the children here are twelve plus. (=are 12 or more years old)* | *She earns \$20,000 a year plus.* | *a B plus for my homework* —opposite **minus**

plus⁴ *conj* in addition to this: *I've got to finish reading this book by Friday, plus I've got two essays to write!*

plus fours /'plʌs fɔː/ *n* [P] trousers with loose wide legs drawn in to fit closely just below the knee, used esp. in former times in playing GOLF —see PAIR (USAGE)

plush¹ /plʌʃ/ also **plush-y** /'plʌʃi/ — *adj infml, usu. apprec* seeming expensive, comfortable, and of good quality: *a plush hotel*

plush² *n* [U] silk or cotton cloth with a surface like short fur

plus sign /'·- / *n* see PLUS² (1)

Plu-tarch /'plu:tɑ:k||-ɑ:rk/ (46?–120 AD) a Greek writer who wrote about famous Greeks and Romans such as Julius Caesar

Plu-to¹ /'plu:təu/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Greek god of the UNDERWORLD, Hades

Pluto² the most distant PLANET, ninth in order from the Sun —see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM

Pluto³ a dog in Walt Disney's CARTOONS for children

plu-toc-ra-cy /plu:'tɒkrəsi||-'tɑ:k- / *n* a ruling class of wealthy people

plu-to-crat /'plu:təkræt/ *n* 1 someone who has power because of their wealth 2 *infml*, often *derog* a very rich person — ~ **ic** /,plu:tə'krætɪk- / *adj*

plu-to-ni-um /plu:'təniəm/ *n* [U] a simple substance (ELEMENT) that is used esp. in the production of atomic power

ply¹ /plaɪ/ *n* [U] (*usu. in comb.*) 1 a measure of the thickness of woollen thread, rope, etc., according to the number of single threads or lengths of material it is made from: *four-ply wool* 2 a measure of the thickness of plywood, according to the number of single thin sheets of wood it is made from: *three-ply wood*

ply² *v* 1 [I+*adv*/*prep*] *esp. BrE* (esp. of a taxi driver) to drive around or wait at a particular place looking for passengers: *You won't find many taxis plying for hire at this time of night.* 2 [I+*adv*/*prep*, esp. *between*;T] (of a taxi, bus, or esp. boat) to travel regularly (in or on): *This ship plies between London and Australia.* | *schooners plying the old trade routes* 3 [T] *lit or old use* a to work at (one's trade), esp. regularly: *the streets where flower-sellers once plied their trade* b to use or work steadily with (a tool): *She sat plying her needle.* (=sewing)

ply sbdy. with sthg. *phr v* [T] to keep supplying (someone) with (esp. food, drink, or questions): *They plied their guests with wine and snacks.* | *The children plied the teacher with questions.*

Plym-outh¹ /'plɪməθ/ a port and naval base in Devon, SW England

Plymouth² *tdmk* an American car made by Chrysler

Plymouth Breth-ren /,·- '·- / also **Brethren**— [*the*+P] a Christian religious organization which is opposed to religious ceremony and to having a group of priests. The Plymouth Brethren are also known for having a family life which is very correct according to severe moral rules.

Plymouth Col-o-ny /'·- ,·- / the second permanent English settlement in America (the first was in JAMESTOWN, Virginia), in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. The settlers were PURITANS who sailed on the ship *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England. Only half of them were still alive after the first winter in America, but they were then helped by the NATIVE AMERICANS and the settlement grew until Massachusetts was established. According to old stories, the settlers' first steps when they landed were on a large rock, today called **Plymouth Rock**. —see THANKSGIVING

Plymouth Rock /,·- '·- / a rock on the coast at Plymouth, Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims are said to have landed in 1620

ply-wood /'plaɪwud/ *n* [U] a material made of several thin sheets of wood stuck together to form a strong board

pm, **PM** /,pi: 'em/ *abbrev. for*: post meridiem=(*Lat*) after midday (used after numbers expressing time): *the 8 pm (train) to London* —see also **AM**

PM /,pi: 'em- / *n infml*, esp. *BrE for*: PRIME MINISTER: *an urgent meeting with the PM*

PMS /,pi: em 'es/ *n* [U] *AmE abbrev. for*: PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME —see PREMENSTRUAL TENSION

PMT /,pi: em 'ti: / *n* [U] *BrE abbrev. for*: PREMENSTRUAL TENSION

pneu-mat-ic /nju:'mæɪtɪk||nu-/ *adj* 1 worked by air pressure: *a pneumatic pump* 2 containing air: *a pneumatic tyre* — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

pneumatic drill /·,·- '·- / *esp. BrE || jackhammer esp. AmE— n* a powerful hand-held tool (a type of DRILL) that is worked by air pressure and is used for breaking up hard materials, esp. road surfaces —see picture at DRILL

pneu-mo-co-ni-o-sis /nju:məʊkəʊni'əʊsɪs||,nu:- / *n* [U] a dis-

ease of the lungs caused by breathing in dust, powder, etc. —compare SILICOSIS

pneu-mo-ni-a /nju:'məʊniə||nu-/ *n* [U] a serious disease of the lungs with INFLAMMATION and difficulty in breathing: *You'll catch pneumonia if you go out in the snow without a coat!*

Po /pəʊ/ [*the*] the main river of N Italy

PO /,pi: 'əʊ- / *abbrev. for*: 1 POST OFFICE 2 POSTAL ORDER 3 PETTY OFFICER

poach¹ /pəʊtʃ/ *v* [T] to cook (esp. eggs or fish) in gently boiling water or other liquid: *poached eggs on toast*

poach² *v* 1 [I;T] to catch or shoot (animals, birds, or fish) without permission on private land: *The gamekeeper caught him poaching (pheasants).* 2 [I (on);T (from)] to take or use unfairly (an idea, person, etc. belonging to or claimed by someone else): *A rival company poached our ideas and marketed them very successfully.* | *One of our key employees had been poached by a competitor.* (=they had persuaded him/her to go and work for them) — ~ **er** *n*

PO Box /,pi: əʊ 'bɒks-||-'bɒks/ also **post office box** *fml— n* a numbered box in a post office, to which someone's mail can be sent and from which they can collect it: *For further details, write to P.O. Box 179.*

Poc-a-hon-tas /,pɒkə'hɒntəs||,pəʊkə'hɑ:n-/ (1595?–1617) a Native American woman, daughter of Chief Powhatan of the Powhatan tribe. Pocahontas saved the life of Captain John Smith, leader of the British settlers at Jamestown, Virginia, when he was about to be killed by her father. Later, Chief Powhatan made friends with the settlers (=the English), and Pocahontas married an Englishman and moved to England, where she died of SMALLPOX.

pocked /pɒkt||pɑ:kt/ *adj* POCKMARKED

pock-et¹ /'pɒkɪt||'pɑ:kɪt/ *n* 1 a small flat cloth bag sewn into or onto a garment, for keeping small articles in: *standing with his hands in his pockets* | *My keys are in my coat pocket.* | *The policeman made me turn out my pockets.* (=empty them and show him what was inside) 2 [*usu. sing.*] (a supply of) money; income: *He paid for it out of his own pocket.* | *A lot of demands have been made on my pocket* (=I have had to spend a lot) *recently.* | *a range of family holidays to suit every pocket* (=for people of all incomes) 3 a container for small or thin articles made by fitting a piece of cloth, net, etc., into the inside of a case or a car door, onto the back of an aircraft seat, etc. 4 [(of)] a small area or group that exists separated from others like it: *Pockets of mist could be seen down by the river.* | *The invaders met pockets of resistance* (=small groups of people who fought against them) *in some cities.* —see also AIRPOCKET 5 any of the six small net bags round the table used in BILLIARDS, into which a ball can roll 6 *be/live in each other's pockets esp. BrE infml* (of two people) to be together too much 7 *have someone in one's pocket* to have complete influence over someone 8 *have something in one's pocket* to be (almost) certain of gaining something or being successful in something: *The Democrats have got the election in their pocket.* 9 *in pocket BrE* having made a profit: *I bought it for £500 and sold it for £550, so I was in pocket on the deal.* | *I ended up £50 in pocket.* 10 *out of pocket BrE* having paid a certain amount, *usu. without good results*: *I bought a new cigarette lighter and it broke; now I'm £10 out of pocket.* —see also OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES 11 *put one's hand in one's pocket* to spend or give money —see also *line one's pockets* (LINE³)

pocket² *v* [T] 1 to put into one's pocket: *He pocketed his wallet and car keys.* 2 to take or get (money), esp. dishonestly: *We gave him £10 to buy presents for the children, but he pocketed most of it.* 3 (in games like BILLIARDS) to hit (a ball) into a POCKET¹ (5)

pocket³ *adj* [A] 1 small enough to be carried in the pocket: *a pocket camera* 2 smaller than the usual size: *a pocket battleship*

pock-et-book /'pɒkɪtbʊk||'pɑ:- / *n* 1 a small notebook 2 *AmE old-fash* a woman's HANDBAG, esp. one without a shoulder STRAP

pocket cal-cu-lat-or /,·- '·- / *n* a small piece of electronic equipment which a person can carry with them and with which they can do calculations. People use them at school, college, work, and in the shops.

pock-et-ful /'pɒkɪtful/ || 'pɑː-/ *n* [(of)] the amount that a pocket will hold

pocket-hand-ker-chief /,pɒkɪt 'hændkər'tʃiːf/ *n fml* a handkerchief made of material, not paper

pocket-handkerchief² *adj* [A] *infml, esp. BrE* square and very small: *a pocket-handkerchief garden*

pock-et-knife /'pɒkɪtnaɪf/ || 'pɑː-/ *n -knives* /naɪvz/ a small knife with one or more blades that fold into the handle; PENKNIFE

pocket mon-ey /'pɒkɪt 'mɒni/ *n* [U] 1 *esp. BrE* || allowance *AmE*— money given weekly to a child by its parents 2 *infml* a little money to buy oneself things

pocket ve-to /'pɒkɪt 'veto/ *n AmE* a VETO (disapproval) of a BILL¹ (2) by the President in which he takes no action on the bill. The President has ten days to either sign or refuse to accept a bill. If he takes no action and Congress is not working when the bill is returned to them at the end of the ten days, then the bill fails and does not become law and this is called a pocket veto.

pock-mark /'pɒkmaːk/ || 'pɑːkmaːrk/ *n* a hollow mark left on the skin where a small diseased area has been, esp. one caused by the disease SMALLPOX

pock-marked /'pɒkmaːkt/ || 'pɑːkmaːrkt/ also **pocked**— *adj* [(with)] covered with pockmarks: *a pockmarked face* | (fig.) *The metal surface was pockmarked with little holes.*

pod¹ /pɒd/ || 'pɑːd/ *n* 1 a long narrow seed container of various plants, esp. beans and PEAS: *a pea pod* 2 a long narrow container for petrol or other substances, esp. one carried under an aircraft wing 3 a part of a space vehicle that can be separated from the main part

pod² *v -dd-* [T] to take (beans, PEAS, etc.) from their pod before cooking

podg-y /'pɒdʒi/ || 'pɑː-/ also **pudgy**— *adj infml, usu. derog* (of a person or part of the body) short and fat: *his podgy little hands* —-iness *n* [U]

po-di-a-trist /pə'daɪətrɪst/ *n esp. AmE* for CHIROPODIST—try *n* [U]

po-di-um /'pəʊdiəm/ *n -diums or -dia* /diə/ 1 a small raised area for a performer, speaker, musical CONDUCTOR, etc., to stand on—see colour picture on page 883 2 *AmE* for LECTERN

po-dunk /'pəʊdʌŋk/ *adj AmE infml derog (usu. of a town)* small and in the country: *I went to a podunk little school in a podunk town.*

Poe /pəʊ/, **Ed-gar Al-lan** /'edgəɹ 'ælən/ (1809–49) an American poet and writer of short stories. He wrote DETECTIVE stories such as *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, but is most famous for writing stories about death and the SUPERNATURAL including *The Fall of the House of Usher*.

po-em /'pəʊɪm/ *n* a piece of writing, arranged in patterns of lines and of sounds, expressing some thought, feeling, or human experience in language full of imagination

po-e-sy /'pəʊɪzi/ || -si/ *n* [U] *old use or poet* poetry

po-et /'pəʊɪt/ *n* a person who writes (good or serious) poems: (fig.) *She is a poet amongst pianists.* (=plays the piano with great feeling and imagination)

po-et-as-ter /,pəʊɪt 'æstəɹ/ *n derog, esp. lit* a writer of bad poems

po-et-ess /,pəʊɪt 'tes/ || 'pəʊɪtɪs/ *n now rare* a female poet

po-et-ic /pəʊ'etɪk/ *adj* 1 of or like poets or poetry: *poetic language/drama*—compare PROSE (1) 2 *apprec* having qualities of deep feeling and effortless expression: *The dancer moved with poetic grace.* —~ally /kli/ *adv*

po-et-i-cal /pəʊ'etɪkəl/ *adj* 1 [A] written in the form of poems: *the complete poetical works of Wordsworth* 2 poetic

poetic jus-tice /,pəʊ'etɪk 'ʃʌsɪs/ *n* [U] a result in which someone is punished or made to suffer for something bad they have done in a way that seems particularly suitable or right: *The rumours he had spread led to my dismissal, so it was poetic justice when he too was fired soon after.*

poetic li-cence /,pəʊ'etɪk 'lɪsəns/ *n* [U] the freedom to change facts, not to obey the usual rules, etc. as allowed to poets, painters, etc.

poet laur-e-ate /,pəʊ'etɪ 'leɪt/ *n (often caps.)* a poet appointed by a country or a state, who writes poems on important occasions

po-et-ry /'pəʊɪtri/ *n* [U] 1 poems: *a book of poetry* | *the*

poetry of Dryden—compare PROSE 2 the art of writing poems 3 *apprec* a quality of beauty, grace, and deep feeling: *This dancer has poetry in her movements.*

Poets' Corner /,pəʊ'ets 'kɔːnə/ a part of Westminster Abbey in London where many famous English poets are buried, including Chaucer

po-faced /,pəʊ 'feɪst-/ *adj BrE infml derog* having a silly solemn expression on the face, esp. showing disapproval

po-go stick /'pəʊgəʊ strɪk/ *n* a pole with a spring and a bar near the bottom on which one can place one's feet, holding the top, and then jump about for fun

pog-rom /'pɒgrəm/ || pə'grɑːm/ *n* a planned killing of large numbers of people, esp. Jews, carried out for reasons of race or religion

poi-nant /'pɔɪnjənt/ *adj fml* 1 producing a sharp feeling of sadness or pity: *poignant memories of an unhappy childhood* | *a poignant farewell* 2 (of sorrow, grief, etc.) painful and deeply felt —~ly *adv* —gnancy *n* [U]

Poin-ca-ré /'pwæŋkæreɪ/ || ,pwæŋkæ'reɪ/, **Hen-ri** /'ɒnri/ || aːn'riː/ (1854–1912) a French MATHEMATICIAN, one of the greatest of his time

Poin-dex-ter /'pɔɪndekstəɹ/, **John** (1936–) an American REAR ADMIRAL and Republican government official. He was forced to RESIGN after the Irangate affair and was found guilty of selling arms to Iran.

poin-set-tia /pɔɪn'setɪə/ || -'setə, -'setiə/ *n* a tropical plant with flowerlike groups of large bright red leaves, popular for Christmas decoration

point¹ /pɔɪnt/ *n* 1 [C (of)] a sharp end: *She pricked herself with/on the point of a needle.* | *These thorns have sharp points.* | (fig.) *I won't make concessions at the point of a gun.* (=when I have a gun aimed at me) 2 [C] a particular real or imaginary place: *The bus stops at four or five points along this road.* | (fig.) *The only point of contact between them was their love of fishing.*—see also TURNING POINT 3 [C] a particular noticeable quality or ability of a person or thing; FEATURE: *What are the points to look for when you are buying a new computer?* | *I can't see any weak points in your plan.*—see also STRONG POINT 4 [C;U] an exact moment; particular time or state: *I'll resume the story at the point where the hero is about to rescue them.* | *At one point in the meeting she nearly lost her temper.* | *the melting point of gold* (=the temperature at which it melts) | *My patience had reached breaking point, and I'm afraid I was very rude to him.* | *She's always threatening to leave, but when it comes to the point* (=when the moment comes for her to take action) *she never does.*—see also BOILING POINT, FREEZING POINT, HIGH POINT 5 [C] any of the units used for recording the SCORE in various sports and games: *We won the rugby match by 12 points to 3.* | *The first player to get 21 points is the winner.* 6 [C] a single particular idea, fact, or part of an argument or statement: *There were two or three points in your speech that I didn't understand.* | *a five-point plan* | *Yes, I take your point.* (=I think that what you have just said is quite reasonable) | *You've got a point there.* (=What you have said seems to be right.) | *By skilful argument she succeeded in carrying/gaining her point.* (=making others agree) | *All right, you've made your point* (=I understand what you are trying to say); *there's no need to go on about it.* | *He didn't seem keen to accept the offer, so I didn't press the point.* (=I did not continue to try to make him accept) 7 [the] the main idea contained in something said or done, which gives meaning to all of it: *I didn't see the point of his last remark.* (=did not understand it, or why he made it) | *He seems to have missed* (=failed to understand) *the whole point of the book.* | *I know he's a nice person but that's not the point.* (=not really important to or connected with the thing being talked about) | *I'm in a hurry, so come/get to the point.* (=come to the most important or urgent part of what you have to say) | *The fact that he's your brother is beside the point.* (=has nothing to do with the main subject) | *The*



chairman made a few rambling remarks, which were rather off the point. | Your suggestion is very much to the point. (=is highly RELEVANT) **8** [U (in, of)] purpose; advantage; use: *There's not much point in repairing that old car again.* | *What's the point of locking all the doors?* | *I can't see the point in trying to persuade him — he'll never change his mind.* **9** [C] also **decimal point**— a sign (·) used for separating a whole number from any following decimals: *When we read out 4.23 we say "four point two three".* **10** [C] *tech* a FULL STOP **11** [C] a a measure of increase or decrease in cost, value, etc.: *The dollar has fallen a few points on the money markets today.* | *The cost of living has risen by three percentage points.* (=by 3%) **b** *AmE* an amount of money equal to 1% of a MORTGAGE (=money borrowed to buy a house or other property): *If I refinance now I can knock two points off my mortgage.* **12** [C (of)] a very small area or spot: *We could just make out a point of light at the end of the tunnel.* **13** [C] a COMPASS POINT **14** [C] a sharply angled piece of land that stretches out into the sea: *The ship rounded the point.* **15** [C] also **power point** *BrE* || **electric socket** *AmE*— a piece of plastic or other material with holes in it, in Britain usu. three square holes which is fixed into a wall and to which electrical equipment can be connected for the electricity supply **16** [C usu. pl.] *tech* the end of an electrical instrument or wire across which, or from which, a small amount of electricity is sent: *If the engine isn't working properly the points may need cleaning.* **17** at the point of just before: *at the point of death/collapse* **18** case in point something that proves or is an example of the subject under consideration: *I'm always ill when I go abroad; what happened on our last holiday is a case in point.* **19** in point of fact actually; in reality: *He makes great claims about being an experienced traveller, but in point of fact he's only been abroad once.* **20** make a point of to take particular care about: *She always makes a point of being punctual.* **21** on the point of just starting to; just about to: *I was on the point of leaving when the phone rang.* **22** point of no return a particular moment at which one has to decide whether to stop what one is doing or go on, because if one continues any further one will not be able to stop **23** to the point of to a degree that can be described as: *Her manner of speaking is direct to the point of rudeness.* —see also POINTS, stretch a point (STRETCH¹)

point² *v* **1** [I (at, to)] to draw attention to something, or show where it is or how to get there, by holding out a finger or a long pointed object towards it: *She pointed to the house on the corner and said, "That's where I live."* | *It's rude to point at people.* **2** [T (at, towards)] to aim or direct: *You should never point a gun if you don't mean to fire it.* | *Their missiles are pointed at targets in enemy countries.* | *She pointed the boat upstream.* **3** [I+adv/prep] to be aimed in or show the stated direction: *The arrow points north.* **4** [T] to fill in and make smooth the spaces between the bricks of (a wall, house, etc.) with cement **5** point the finger (at) *infml* to blame (someone) publicly; ACCUSE **6** point the way to show how to gain a particular result: *This new discovery points the way forward in the search for a cure.*

point sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** [(to)] to show who or what (a particular person or thing) is, esp. by pointing: *You've never met her? Well she's here somewhere, so I'll point her out to you if I see her.* [wh-] *I pointed out to him where I used to live.* **2** [+that] to draw attention to the fact: *May I point out that if we don't leave now we shall miss the bus.*

point to/towards sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to suggest the strong possibility of; be a sign of: *All the evidence points towards Randall as the murderer.*

point sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *fml* to make clearer or more urgent; EMPHASIZE: *The increasing number of accidents points up the need for stricter road-safety measures.*

point-blank /, · ' · / *adj, adv* **1** (fired) from a very close position: *He shot the animal point-blank/at point-blank range.* **2** (in a way that is) forceful and direct: *a point-blank refusal* | *I told him point-blank what I thought of his ridiculous idea.*

point du-ty / · ' · / *n* [(on) U] *BrE* the controlling of traffic by a policeman standing usu. at a point where two roads cross each other

point-ed /'pɔɪntɪd/ *adj* **1** shaped to a point at one end: *long pointed fingernails* **2** done in a noticeable way and intended to express a particular message or meaning: *She*

looked in a pointed manner at the clock and I understood that it was time to leave. **3** (of something said) aimed noticeably and unfavourably at a particular person: *a few pointed remarks about the length of his hair* — ~ly *adv*

point-er /'pɔɪntə/ *n* **1** a thin piece of metal that moves and points to the numbers on a measuring apparatus **2** [(to)] *infml* a helpful piece of advice or information: *I'm new to this job, so I'd be grateful if you could give me a few pointers.* **3** a stick used for pointing at things on a large map, board, etc. **4** a hunting dog that stops with its nose pointed towards a hunted animal or bird that it has smelt

poin-til-lis-m /'pwæntɪlɪzəm, 'pɔɪn-/ *n* [U] a style of painting which uses dots of colour to get its effect, developed in the late 19th century by artists who did not agree with the ideas of IMPRESSIONISM. The most famous painter to use this style was Seurat. —see also IMPRESSIONISM, SEURAT —list *n, adj*: *the 19th-century French pointillist Seurat* | *a pointillist painting*

point-less /'pɔɪntləs/ *adj* often *derog* **1** done for no reason; meaningless: *pointless violence* **2** that cannot have any result; useless; FUTILE: *It's pointless to try to negotiate with them because they'll never change their minds.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

point man / · ' · / *n* *AmE* a person, esp. a soldier, who goes ahead of a group to see if there is any danger

point of or-der / · ' · ' · / *n* *fml* a matter connected with the organization of an official meeting: *to raise a point of order* | *On a point of order, Mr Chairman, shouldn't the minutes be read first?*

point of ref-e-rence / · ' · ' · / *n* something one knows about already which helps one when one thinks about something else

point of view / · ' · ' · / also **viewpoint**— *n* a particular way of considering or judging a situation, person, event, etc.: *We need someone with a fresh point of view, who can suggest changes.* | *From the government's point of view it would be better if this information were kept secret.* | *Try to look at it from their point of view.* (=to see the situation as they see it)

points /pɔɪnts/ *n* [P] **1** *BrE* || **switches** *AmE*— a pair of short RAILS that can be moved to allow a train to cross over from one track to another **2** the ends of the toes, as used to dance on in BALLET **3** the gaining of more points than one's opponent in BOXING, rather than knocking him down: *Smith beat Jones on points.* | *a points victory*

points-man /'pɔɪntsmən/ *BrE* || **switchman** *AmE*— *n* pl -men /mən/ **1** a person who operates railway POINTS (1) **2** a police or traffic officer controlling and directing traffic where two roads cross

point-to-point / · ' · ' · / *n* **point-to-points** *BrE* a horserace across country from one place to another, usu. with points along the way marked with flags. This sport is especially popular with upper-class people who live in the country.

Poi-rot /'pwaɪrəʊ||pwaɪ'rəʊ/, **Her-cule** /'eəkju:l||eər'kju:l/ an imaginary DETECTIVE from the books of the English writer Agatha Christie. Hercule Poirot is a small, BALD man with a large MOUSTACHE and a very neat appearance. He is Belgian and thinks the English are strange, while the English think that his way of speaking English is funny. He is very clever and always discovers who the criminal is.

Hercule Poirot



poise¹ /pɔɪz/ *n* [U] *apprec* **1** good judgment and self-control in one's actions, combined with a quiet confidence in one's abilities; COMPOSURE **2** a well-balanced way of holding or moving one's body: *the dancer's graceful poise*

poise² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to hold or place in a carefully balanced position: *He poised the glass on the edge of the shelf.*

poised /pɔɪzd/ *adj* **1** [F+between] in a condition of (dangerous) uncertainty: *The sick man is poised between life*

and death. **2** [F (for/to-v)] in a state of readiness to act or move: *The army was poised for a major attack/poised to attack.* **3** [F+adv/prep] not moving, as if hanging in the air: *The bee hung poised above the flower.* **4** [F+adv/prep] carefully balanced: *She sat poised on the edge of her chair as if ready to go.* **5** *apprec* having or showing poise

poi-son¹ /'pɔɪzən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) substance that can cause illness or death if taken into the body: *These mushrooms contain a deadly poison.* | *a bottle of rat poison* (=for killing rats) | *Arsenic is a poison.* | *They hate each other like poison.* (=very much) | (fig.) *the poison* (=extremely harmful influence) of pornography **2** [U] *humor sl* alcoholic drink: *What's your poison?* (=What would you like to drink?)

poison² *v* [T] **1** to harm or kill with poison: *Someone tried to poison our dog.* **2** to put poison into or onto (something): *Someone tried to poison our dog's food.* | *a poisoned arrow/water supply* **3** to make dangerously impure: *Exhaust fumes from cars are poisoning the air of our cities.* **4** to have a damaging influence on: *Their minds have been poisoned by propaganda.* | *His insensitive remarks will poison relations between the two superpowers.* —see also FOOD POISONING **5** *esp. BrE* to infect (*esp.* a part of the body): *a poisoned foot* — *~er n*

poison gas /,-- 'l-/ *n* [U] gas used in war to kill or harm an enemy

poison i-vy /,-- 'l-/ *n* [U] a North American climbing plant that causes painful spots on the skin when touched

poi-son-ous /'pɔɪzənəs/ *adj* **1** containing poison: *poisonous snakes* | *Some plants have poisonous berries.* **2** having the effects of poison: *This medicine is poisonous if taken in large quantities.* | (fig.) *the poisonous* (=extremely harmful) *influence of their lies* **3** *derog* nasty; very unpleasant: *She gave him a poisonous look.* — *~ly adv*

poison-pen let-ter /,-- 'l-, 'l-/ *n* a usu. unsigned letter saying bad things about someone

Poi-ti-er /'pɔɪtiə/ || 'pɔɪtjeɪ/, **Sid-ney** /'sɪdni/ (1927–) a black American film actor and DIRECTOR, who was one of the first black actors to play serious parts rather than black STEREOTYPES

poke¹ /pəʊk/ *v* [I;T] **1** [(+obj)+adv/prep] to stretch out sharply or suddenly through or beyond a particular place or opening: *His elbow was poking (out) through his torn shirt sleeve.* | *She poked her head round the corner.* **2** [(in, with)] to push a pointed thing into (someone or something); *PROD: You nearly poked me in the eye with your pencil.* | *She poked the fire to make it burn better.* **3** *poke fun at* to laugh or cause others to laugh rather unkindly at; make fun of —see also **poke one's nose in** (NOSE¹ (8))

poke about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* to move things about when looking for something: *She poked about in her bag for her ticket.* | *Who's been poking about in my private drawer?*

poke² *n* an act of poking with something pointed: *I gave her a poke in the ribs with my elbow to wake her up.* —see also **pig in a poke** (PIG¹)

pok-er¹ /'pəʊkə/ *n* a metal rod used to poke a fire in order to make it burn better —see picture at FIREPLACE

poker² *n* [U] a card game usu. played for money

poker face /'l-- 'l-/ *n* [S] a face that shows nothing of what a person is thinking or feeling (from the game of poker in which players try not to show what they are feeling because they do not want other players to know if their cards are good or bad) —**poker-faced** *adj*

po-ker-work /'pəʊkəwɜ:k||-kərwɜ:rk/ *n* [U] (the art of making) pictures or decoration on wood or leather made by burning the surface with hot tools

pok-y, **pokey** /'pəʊki/ *adj infml derog* **1** (of a place) uncomfortably small and unattractive: *a poky little house with a poky little garden in front* **2** || **pokey** *AmE* annoyingly slow —**iness** *n* [U]

Po-lack /'pəʊlæk/ *n* *AmE taboo* a POLE (=a person from Poland). In the US, jokes are made about the Polish, in which they appear to be quite stupid. These jokes are considered offensive, *esp.* by Polish people themselves —compare IRISH JOKE

Po-land /'pəʊlənd/ a country in central Europe; capital Warsaw; population 37,854,000 (1989). In 1939 Germany

invaded (INVADE) Poland and during the Second World War many Polish people were killed by the Germans. From 1945 the USSR controlled the Polish government and the Communist party was the only political party allowed. In 1980, a new political party, Solidarity, led by Lech Walesa, began to oppose the Communist government and finally, in 1989, was elected as the new government. —see also EASTERN BLOC, SOLIDARITY, Lech WALESA

Po-lan-ski /pə'lænski/, **Roman** (1933–) a Polish film DIRECTOR, who has made his films in English since the mid 1960s. His films are often about madness and violence and include *Repulsion* and *Rosemary's Baby*. He was married to the actress Sharon Tate who was killed by Charles Manson and his followers. He is no longer able to work in America because he was said to have had sex with girls who were too young to do this legally.

po-lar /'pəʊlə/ *adj* [A] **1** of, near, like, or coming from lands near the North or South Poles: *the polar ice-cap* **2** *fml or tech* exactly opposite in kind, quality, etc.: *The two systems of government are polar opposites.*

polar bear /,-- 'l-/ *n* a large white bear that lives near the North Pole —see picture at BEAR

Po-la-ris /pə'lɑ:rɪs||-'læ-/ an American NUCLEAR weapon fired from a SUBMARINE, developed in the 1950s and 60s and used by the US and Britain as a nuclear DETERRENT

po-lar-i-ty /pə'lærɪti/ *n* [C;U] **1** *fml* the state of having or developing two opposite qualities: *a growing polarity between the opinions of the government and those of the trade unions* **2** *tech* a the state of having two opposite POLES¹ (3,4,5) b either of the two states of electricity possessed by POLES¹ (4) (in the phrases **negative polarity**, **positive polarity**)

po-lar-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'pəʊləraɪz/ *v* **1** [I;T (into)] to divide into groups based on two completely opposite principles, political opinions, etc.: *a highly controversial issue which has polarized the country* **2** [T] *tech* a to give POLARITY (2a) to b to cause (light waves) to VIBRATE (=move up and down) in a single particular pattern —**ization** /,pəʊləraɪ'zeɪʃən||-rə-/ *n* [U]

Po-lar-oid /'pəʊləroɪd/ *n* *tdmk* **1** [U] a material with which glass is treated in order to make light shine less brightly through it, used in making SUNGLASSES, car windows, etc. **2** [C] also **Polaroid camera** a camera that produces a finished photograph from inside itself only seconds after the picture has been taken

Po-lar-oids /'pəʊləroɪdz/ *n* [P] SUNGLASSES treated with Polaroid —see PAIR (USAGE)

pole¹ /pəʊl/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a long straight round rather thin stick or post, *esp.* one stuck upright or nearly upright into the ground as a support: *The hut was made of poles covered with grass mats.* | *a tent pole* | *a flagpole* | (fig.) *climbing the greasy/slippery pole of promotion* (=where it is easy to fail and go backwards) **2** *up the pole infml, esp. BrE* slightly mad

pole² *v* [I] to use a pole or poles to move along, e.g. in a flat-bottomed boat or when sliding over snow on SKIS

pole³ *n* **1** (the area around) the most northern and southern points on the surface of a PLANET, *esp.*, on Earth, the NORTH POLE or SOUTH POLE or the cold areas around them: *the rigours of life at the poles* | (fig., *lit*) *from pole to pole* (=all over the world) —see also MAGNETIC POLE **2** either of two positions that are as far apart or different as possible: *Our opinions on this subject are at opposite poles.* **3** either of the two points in the sky to the north and south round which stars seem to turn **4** either of the points at the ends of a MAGNET where its power of pulling iron towards itself is strongest **5** either of the two points at which wires can be fixed onto an electric BATTERY in order to use the electricity (often in the phrases **negative pole**, **positive pole**) **6** either end of an imaginary straight line (AXIS) round which a solid round mass turns **7** **poles apart** widely separated; having no shared quality, idea, etc.: *They are poles apart in their political attitudes.*

Pole *n* a person who comes or whose parents come from Poland

pole-axe /'pəʊləks/ *v* [T] to knock down (as if) with a very hard hit: *The boxer was poleaxed by a savage punch to the jaw.*

pole-cat /'pəʊlkæt/ *n* **1** a small fierce dark brown animal



Christopher Columbus discovers America

In 1492 Christopher Columbus was the first European to discover America.

'Not tonight, Josephine.'



Napoleon Bonaparte, the French military leader, is supposed to have said this to Josephine one evening when she was feeling romantic but he was resting before battle. People sometimes use this phrase in a joking way when they refuse an invitation or an offer.



The Boston Tea Party

In 1773 a group of American men, dressed as Native Americans, went onto English ships in Boston Harbour because they were angry that the English government, which ruled America, had introduced a new tax on tea. The men threw all the tea that the ships were carrying into the water.

The Charge of the Light Brigade

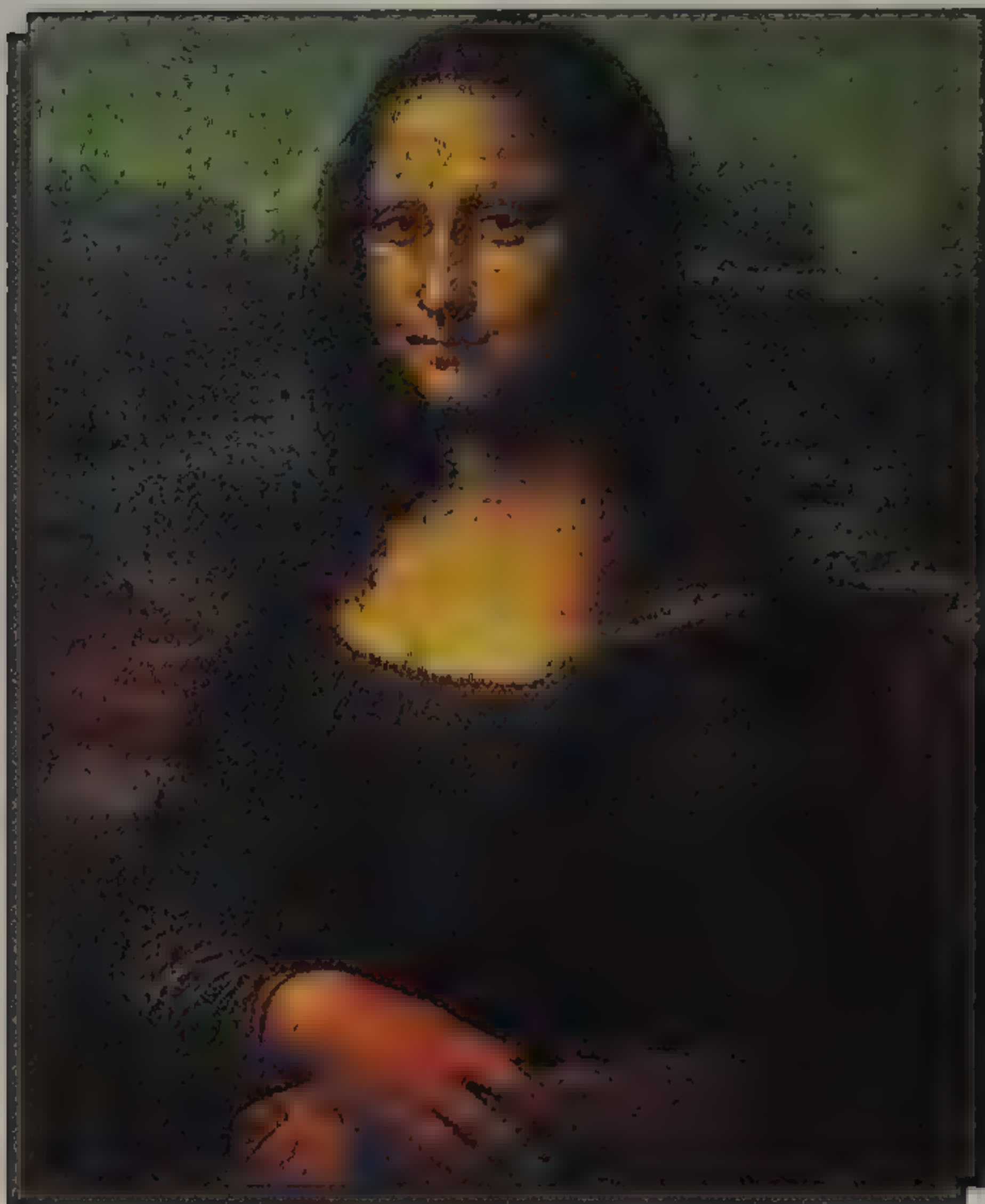
During the Crimean War, British soldiers were sent into a battle which they could not win because they had only swords and were fighting against cannons. Many were killed.



The Pilgrim Fathers

The Pilgrim Fathers sailed to America because they wanted to escape from England to make a new kind of society based on their own religious beliefs.





The Mona Lisa
by Leonardo Da Vinci



The Haywain
by John Constable



Sunflowers
by Vincent Van Gogh



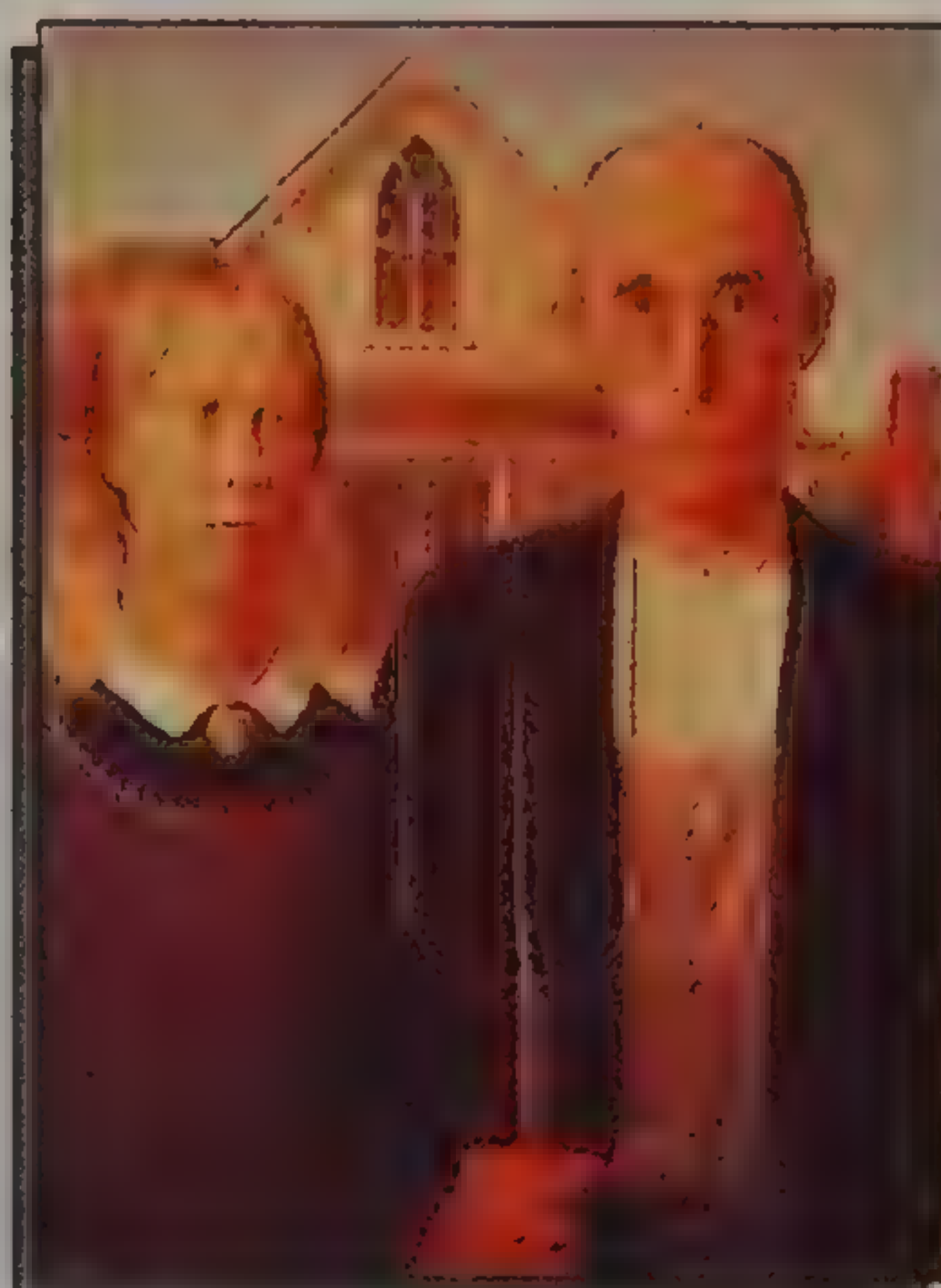
View on the Grand Canal
by Canaletto



Waterlily Pond
by Claude Monet



The Laughing Cavalier
by Frans Hals



American Gothic
by Grant Wood



Le Moulin de la Galette
by Renoir

that lives in northern Europe and has a very unpleasant smell **2 AmE infml** for SKUNK (1)

po-lem-ic /pə'lemɪk/ *n fml or tech* **1** [C] a fierce attack on or defence of an opinion **2** [U] also **polemics**— the art or practice of attacking or defending opinions, ideas, etc.

po-lem-i-cal /pə'lemɪkəl/ also **polemic**— *adj fml or tech* written or said with the main purpose of attacking or defending opinions, ideas, etc. as if in an argument, rather than simply expressing or explaining them — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*

pole po-si-tion /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* [C;U] the front position at the beginning of a car race: *By doing the fastest practice lap Senna got (the) pole-position.*

pole star /'pɒl, pɔː-/ also **North Star**— *n* [the] (often *cap.*) the rather bright star that is nearest to the centre of the sky in the northern part of the world

pole vault /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* **1** [C] a jump made over a high raised bar with the help of a long pole **2** [the+S] the sport of doing this — see colour picture on page 883 — **pole-vault** *v* [I] — *~er n*

po-lice¹ /pə'liːz/ *n* [(the) P] an official body of men and women whose job is to protect people and property, to make everyone obey the law, to catch criminals, etc. In Britain, people can call the police quickly by dialling (DIAL.) 999; in the US, the number is 911: *The police have caught the murderer.* | *Have you reported the incident to the police?* | *Extra police were rushed to the scene of the trouble.* | *She wants to join the police force.* | *a police car* — see also **MILITARY POLICE**, **SECRET POLICE**

police² *v* [T] **1** to control (a place) (as if) using police: *increased policing of the inner cities* | *The army policed the riot-torn city.* **2** to control; keep a watch on: *A new body has been set up to police the nuclear power industry.*

Police, The a British popular music group successful in the 1970s and 1980s, whose lead singer was called Sting

police con-sta-ble /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* BrE *fml* see P.C.

police dog /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* **1** a dog, usu. an Alsatian, which is trained to help the police find drugs or catch criminals **2 AmE** ALSATIAN

policemen



an American policeman



a British policeman

po-lice-man /pə'liːsmən/ *n* -men /mən/ **1** a male police officer

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain and the US, the old-fashioned **STEREOTYPE** of a policeman is of a friendly man who helps people, for example by telling them how to get to a place or by telling them what time it is.

2 a policeman's lot is not a happy one *quote* a slightly changed phrase from an **OPERA** by Gilbert and Sullivan, often used when saying how difficult the job of the police is

police of-fi-cer /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* a member of a police force

police state /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* *derog* a country in which most activities of the citizens are controlled by (secret) political police

police sta-tion /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* the local office of the police in a town, part of a city, etc.

po-lice-wom-an /pə'liːs, wʊmən/ *n* -women /, wɪmzən/ a female police officer

policewomen



an American policewoman



a British policewoman

pol-i-cy¹ /'pɒlɪsi/ 'paː-/ *n* [C;U] **1** a course of action for dealing with a particular matter or situation, esp. as chosen by a political party, government, business company, etc.: *The government must evolve new policies to reduce unemployment.* | *The nationalization of industries is not government policy.* (=they do not intend to do it) | *What is the company's policy on employing disabled people?* | *economic policy* | *a policy statement* **2** a course or principle of action, esp. one that is to one's own advantage: *It's bad policy to smoke too much; it may harm your health.* | *As they say, honesty is the best policy.*

policy² also **insurance policy**— *n* a written statement of the details of an agreement with an insurance company: *an all-risks policy* | *policy-holders*

po-li-o /'pəʊliəʊ/ also **po-li-o-my-e-li-tis** /,pəʊliəʊmaɪə-'laɪtɪs/ *tech*— *n* [U] a serious infectious disease of the nerves in the **SPINE**, often resulting in a lasting **PARALYSIS** (=inability to move certain muscles)

pol-ish¹ /'pɒlɪʃ/ 'paː-/ *v* [T(UP)] to make smooth, bright, and shiny by continual rubbing: *Polish your shoes with a brush.* | *He polished up the old copper coins.* — *~er n*: *an electric floor polisher*

polish sthg. ↔ **off phr v** [T] *infml* to finish (food, work, etc.), esp. quickly or easily: *He polished off a plate of fish and chips in no time at all.*

polish sthg. ↔ **up phr v** [T] to improve by practising: *I'll need to polish up my French if I'm going to France for my holidays.*

polish² *n* **1** [U] (often *in comb.*) a liquid, powder, PASTE, etc., used in polishing a surface: *a tin of brown shoe polish* | *floor polish* — see also **FRENCH POLISH** **2** [S] a smooth shiny surface produced by rubbing: *A hot plate will spoil the table's polish.* **3** [S] an act of polishing: *These shoes need a polish!* **4** [U] the quality of being **POLISHED**: *His writing has potential but lacks polish.*

Pol-ish /'pəʊlɪʃ/ *adj* of Poland, its people, or their language

pol-ish-ed /'pɒlɪʃt/ 'paː-/ *adj* **1** (of a piece of artistic work, a performance, etc.) done with great skill and control **2** (of manners, etc.) polite and graceful

po-lit-bu-ro /pə'liːtʃuərəʊ, 'pɒlɪt-||'paːlɪt-, pə'liːt-/ *n* -ros (often *cap.*) the chief decision-making committee of a Communist party or Communist government

po-lite /pə'laɪt/ *adj* *apprec* **1** having or showing good manners, sensitivity to other people's feelings, and/or correct social behaviour: *What polite well-behaved children!* | *It's not considered polite to talk with your mouth full.* | *a polite refusal* | *I know he said he liked it, but he was only being polite.* (=in fact, he didn't like it) — opposite **rude**, **impolite** **2** *old-fash pomp* showing fineness of feeling, good education and manners, etc.; **REFINED**: *polite society* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

polite so-ci-e-ty /'pɒl, pɔː-/ *n* [U] (the company of) the set of

people who are considered to have a good education, good manners, and fine feelings: *That's not the kind of word you'd use in polite society.* | *an ex-farmer who felt ill at ease in polite society*

pol-i-tic /'pɒlɪtɪk/ || 'paɪ-/ *adj fml* (of behaviour or actions) well-judged and likely to bring advantage; **PRUDENT**: *It would be politic to agree with him.* —see also **BODY POLITIC**

po-lit-i-cal /pə'litɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] of public affairs and/or the government of a country and its relations with other countries: *the loss of political freedoms* | *a country's political institutions* (=its law-making bodies, systems of government, etc.) | *attempts to find a political solution* (=not a military one) *to the problems of the region* **2** [no comp.] of (party) politics: *She has very strong political opinions.* | *the newspaper's political editor* **3** [no comp.] charged with or being an act harmful to a government: *a political offence* **4** very interested in or active in politics: *The students in this university are very political.* **5** *usu. derog* connected with, influenced by, or done for reasons of personal, group, or governmental advantage rather than for the reasons officially given: *a political decision* | *The tax cuts were made for purely political reasons.* — *~ly* /kli/ *adv*: *politically motivated strikes*

political ac-tion com-mit-tee /-... '... -.../ also **PAC**— *n* *AmE* an organization formed by a business, **INTEREST GROUP**, or **TRADE UNION** to raise money to help people who support their ideas to run for **CONGRESS**

political ac-tiv-ist /-... '...-.../ *n* sometimes *derog* a person taking a very active part in a political movement

political a-sy-lum /-... '...-.../ *n* [U] the right to remain safely in another country, for a person who cannot live safely in their own because of the political situation: *a Tamil refugee seeking political asylum*

political e-con-o-my /-... '...-.../ *n* [U] the study of the way nations manage the making and use of wealth

political ge-og-ra-phy /-... '...-.../ *n* [U] the study of the Earth's surface as it is divided up into different countries, rather than as marked by rivers, mountain ranges, etc.

politically cor-rect /-... '...-.../ also **PC**— *adj* correct according to a set of **LIBERAL** opinions, e.g. that black people and women should have equal chances to get jobs, education, etc.: *His politically correct speech stated that university students should study literature written by blacks and women as well as Shakespeare and Homer.*

political ma-chine /-... '...-.../ *n* *AmE, usu. derog* the way in which a politician, esp. a **MAYOR** or **GOVERNOR** runs his office so that he is in control of everything that happens

political par-ty /-... '...-.../ *n* a group of people with similar political ideas who try to gain power in a country: *Which of the main political parties is most likely to win the election?*

political pris-on-er /-... '...-.../ *n* a person who is put in prison because they oppose the government of a country, or because the government does not agree with their ideas

political sci-ence /-... '...-.../ *n* [U] the scientific study of politics and government — **political scientist** *n*

pol-i-ti-clan /,pɒlɪ'tɪʃən/ || 'paɪ-/ *n* **1** a person whose business is politics, esp. one who has been elected to a parliament or to a position in government. Politicians are often mentioned in jokes as being people you cannot trust. — see colour picture on page 950 **2** someone who is skilled at dealing with people in a way that is advantageous to himself or herself or at using a system to his or her own advantage: *You need to be a bit of a politician to succeed in this company.*

po-lit-i-cize also **-cise** *BrE* /pə'litɪsaɪz/ *v* [T] often *derog* **1** to give a political character to **2** to cause to develop an interest in, and understanding of politics — **cization** /pə'litɪsaɪ'zeɪʃən/ || -sə-/ *n* [U]: *opposition to the politicization of the civil service*

pol-i-tick-ing /'pɒlɪtɪkɪŋ/ || 'paɪ-/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* taking part in political activity or talk, esp. for personal advantage

po-lit-i-co /pə'litɪkəʊ/ *n* **-cos** or **-coes** *usu. derog* a politician or other person who is active in politics: *politicos and party hacks, trying to get into comfortable jobs in the government*

pol-i-tics /'pɒlɪtɪks/ || 'paɪ-/ *n* **1** [U+*sing./pl. v*] political affairs, esp. considered as a profession and/or as a means

of winning and keeping governmental control: *Politics has/have never interested me.* | *She wants to go into politics.* (=become a politician) | *local politics* | *I was active in student politics when I was at college.* **2** [U] the art or science of government: *Tom is studying politics at university.* **3** [P] political opinions; the political ideas or party that one favours: *What are her politics?* **4** [U] activity within a particular group or organization by which some members of the group try to gain an advantage over others: *Try not to get involved in office politics.* | *sexual politics*

pol-i-ty /'pɒlɪti/ || 'paɪ-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (a particular form of) political or governmental organization

Polk /pɒk/, **James** (1795–1849) the 11th president of the US (1845–49)

pol-ka /'pɒlkə, 'pɒulkə/ || 'pɒl-/ *n* (a piece of music for) a very quick simple dance for people dancing in pairs. In the US, the polka is seen as rather old-fashioned and amusing.

polka dot /'... -.../ *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of a number of circular spots forming a pattern, used esp. on dress material: *a polka-dot skirt*

poll /pɒl/ *n* **1** [C] also **opinion poll**— a an attempt to find out the general opinion about something, esp. about a political matter, by questioning a number of people chosen by chance: *We're conducting a poll to find out how many people are in favour of nuclear power.* b a record of the result of this: *The latest poll gives the Republicans a 5% lead.* —see also **DEED POLL**, **GALLUP POLL**, **STRAW POLL** **2** [U] also **polls** *pl.*— the giving of votes in writing at an election: *The result of the poll won't be known until midnight.* | *The Conservatives were defeated at the polls.* | *The British public will go to the polls* (=vote in an election) *in the autumn.* **3** [S] the number of votes recorded at an election: *They expected a heavy poll.* (=expected that a large number of people would vote) **4** [U] *AmE* **POLLS** (2)

poll² *v* [T] **1** to question (people) in making a poll: *Almost three-quarters of those who were polled said they opposed the government's policy.* **2** to receive (the stated number of votes) at an election: *She polled 10,372 votes.*

pōl-lard /'pɒləd/ || 'pɒ:lərd/ *n* **1** a tree from which the top has been cut in order to make the branches below the cut place grow more thickly **2** a hornless kind of sheep, goat, etc.

pollard² *v* [T] to cut the top off (a tree) in order to make lower branches grow more thickly

pol-len /'pɒlən/ || 'paɪ-/ *n* [U] fine dust on the male part of a flower that causes other flowers to produce seeds when it is carried to them

pollen count /'... -.../ *n* a measure of the amount of pollen floating in the air, esp. as a guide for people who are made ill by it: *a very high pollen count* —see also **HAY FEVER**

pol-li-nate /'pɒlɪneɪt/ || 'paɪ-/ *v* [T] to cause (a flower or plant) to be able to produce seeds by adding or bringing pollen: *Flowers are often pollinated by bees.* — **-nation** /,pɒlɪ'neɪʃən/ || 'paɪ-/ *n* [U]

poll-ing /'pɒlɪŋ/ *n* [U] voting at an election: *Polling was quite heavy.* (=A lot of people voted.)

polling booth /'... -.../ *n* esp. *BrE* || **voting booth** *AmE*— a partly enclosed place inside a polling station where someone marks their voting paper secretly —see colour picture on page 950

polling day /'... -.../ *n* *BrE* || **election day** *AmE*— the day on which people go to vote in an election

polling sta-tion /'... -.../ *n* esp. *BrE* || **polling place, the polls** *AmE*— a building or other place where people go to vote at an election: *Our local library is used as a polling station during elections.*

Pol-lock /'pɒlək/ || 'paɪ-/ **Jackson** (1912–56) an American **ARTIST** whose large **ABSTRACT** paintings are full of colour and are often made with **DRIPS** of paint. Pollock was one of the first artists to try to express his feelings through this type of painting.

polls /pɒlz/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** **POLL**¹ (2) **2** *AmE* the place where one goes to vote: *"Where are the polls this year?" "At the school."*

poll-ster /'pɒlstə/ *n* *infml* a person who carries out **POLLS**¹ (1), or who explains the meaning of the results of polls

poll tax /'... -.../ [*the*] **1** a tax of a fixed amount collected from every citizen **2** also **Community Charge** a British tax

of a fixed amount to be paid by each person in each area of the country, introduced by the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher as a way of paying for local government services. The amount to be paid was fixed separately by each area. Many people protested against this tax, and it was decided to replace it with the **council tax**, based mainly on the value of people's houses.

pol-lut-ant /pə'lu:tənt/ *n* [C;U] a substance that pollutes, esp. a waste product of an industrial process: *Pollutants are constantly being released into the atmosphere.*

pol-lute /pə'lu:t/ *v* [T] to make (air, water, soil, etc.) dangerously impure or unfit for use: *The river has been polluted by waste products from the factory.* | (fig.) *violent films that pollute (=make impure) young minds*

pol-lu-tion /pə'lu:ʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the action of polluting or the state of being polluted: *pollution of tourist beaches* | *anti-pollution laws* 2 (an area or mass of) a substance that pollutes: *The men were clearing all the pollution off the beach.*

Pollux see CASTOR AND POLLUX

poll watch-er /'pɒl wətʃ-ər/ *n* a person who goes to a POLLING STATION to make sure that the voting is fair and honest: *Poll watchers were sent to observe the country's first democratic elections but were unable to prevent some abuses.*

Pol-ly /'pɒli/ *n* a popular name for a PARROT

Pol-ly-an-na /,pɒli'ænə/ *n* a person who is always OPTIMISTIC and cheerful, esp. when seen as having little experience of the world (from the book *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Porter, whose main character is a young girl who always believes something good will happen): *She's a real Pollyanna, she's sure someone will send her the money.*

po-lo /'pəʊləʊ/ *n* [U] a game played between two teams of players on horseback, who hit a small ball with long-handled wooden hammers. Polo is a game which is played and watched esp. by very rich and fashionable people, including the Prince of Wales, and is seen as a GLAMOROUS and exciting sport. —see also WATER POLO

Polo¹ also **Polo mint** /'pɒlɒ mɪnt/ *n* — *BrE tdmk* a round white sweet which tastes of MINT and has a hole in the middle

Polo², **Mar-co** /'mɑ:kəʊ/ *n* (1254?–1324) an Italian TRAVELLER who wrote about his stay at the court of Kublai Khan in China and his travels in India and SE Asia

pol-o-naise /,pɒlə'neɪz/ *n* a piece of music of a slow ceremonial kind, esp. written for the piano

polo neck /'pɒlɒ nek/ *n* esp. *BrE* || *turtleneck* esp. *AmE* — *n* a round rolled collar, usu. woollen: *a polo-neck sweater*

po-lo-ni-um /pə'ləʊniəm/ *n* [U] a heavy metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT) and is RADIOACTIVE

polo shirt /'pɒlɒ ʃɪrt/ *n* a shirt with short SLEEVES and a collar made out of soft knitted (KNIT¹) cotton material

Pol Pot /,pɒl 'pɒt/ (1928?–) the Prime Minister of Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) from 1975 to 1979 during which time very many people were killed. Pol Pot is a member of the Communist political group the Khmer Rouge. —see also KHMER ROUGE

pol-ter-geist /'pɒltəgeɪst/ *n* a troublesome spirit that is believed to make noises, throw objects about, etc., esp. in a home. Not everyone believes that poltergeists really exist.

pol-troon /pɒl'tru:n/ *n* *derog old use* a coward

pol-y /'pɒli/ *n* **polys** *BrE infml for* POLYTECHNIC

poly- see WORD FORMATION

pol-y-an-dry /,pɒli'ændri/ *n* [U] *tech* the custom or practice of having more than one husband at the same time. In Britain and the US it is against the law for women to do this. —compare BIGAMY, POLYGAMY —**drous** *adj*

pol-y-an-thus /,pɒli'ænθəs/ *n* [C;U] a small garden plant with a group of round brightly-coloured flowers at the top of each stem

pol-y-es-ter /'pɒliɛstər/ *n* [U] a man-made material used to make cloth. Polyester is not usu. as expensive or as fashionable as natural materials such as wool or cotton.

pol-y-eth-y-lene /,pɒli'eθəli:n/ *n* [U] esp. *AmE for* POLYTHENE

po-lyg-a-mist /pə'liɡəmɪst/ *n* *tech* a man who has more than

one wife in a society where this is allowed —see also POLYGAMY

po-lyg-a-my /pə'liɡəmi/ *n* [U] *tech* the custom or practice of having more than one husband or wife at the same time in a society where this is allowed. In Britain and the US it is against the law for men or women to do this. —compare BIGAMY, MONOGAMY —**mous** *adj*: *Many ancient societies were polygamous.*

pol-y-glot /'pɒliɡlɒt/ *n* *tech* 1 (of a person, book, etc.) speaking or using many languages; MULTILINGUAL 2 including groups that speak different languages: *a polyglot population/society* —**polyglot** *n*

pol-y-gon /'pɒliɡən/ *n* (in GEOMETRY) a figure on a flat surface having five or more straight sides

pol-y-graph /'pɒliɡrɑ:f/ *n* *tech for* LIE DETECTOR

pol-y-math /'pɒlimæθ/ *n* *fml* *apprec* a person who has a wide range of knowledge in many subjects

pol-y-mer /'pɒlimər/ *n* a chemical compound having a simple structure of large MOLECULES

pol-y-mor-phous /,pɒli'mɔ:fəs/ *n* also **pol-y-mor-phic** /-fɪk/ *adj* *fml or tech* having or passing through many stages of growth, development, etc.

Pol-y-ne-si-a /,pɒlɪ'ni:ziə/ *n* the islands in the central and southern Pacific Ocean, including the Hawaiian islands, Tonga, and the islands of French Polynesia

Pol-y-ne-si-an /,pɒlɪ'ni:ziən/ *n* 1 a person who comes from or whose parents come from Polynesia 2 [U] a group of languages spoken in Polynesia — **Polynesian** *adj*

pol-yp /'pɒlɪp/ *n* 1 a very simple small water animal, having the form of a tubelike bag 2 a small unnatural growth in the body, caused by an illness — **ous** *adj*

po-lyph-o-ny /pə'li:fəni/ *n* [U] a form of musical writing in which several different patterns of notes are sung or played together, fitting in with each other musically, according to certain rules; COUNTERPOINT —**nic** /,pɒli'fɒnik/ *adj*

pol-y-pro-py-lene /,pɒli'prɒpɪli:n/ *n* [U] a lightweight plastic material used for wrapping, in floor coverings, etc.

pol-ys-e-mous /,pə'lisɪməs/ *adj* *tech* (of a word) having many different meanings

pol-y-sor-bate /,pɒli'sɔ:bɪt/ *n* [U] a kind of EMULSIFIER used in preparing PROCESSED FOODS to keep liquids and solids from separating; a food ADDITIVE

pol-y-sty-rene /,pɒli'staɪəri:n/ *n* also **Styrofoam** *AmE tdmk* — *n* [U] a light plastic that prevents the escape of heat, used esp. for making containers

pol-y-syl-la-ble /'pɒli,sɪləbəl/ *n* *tech* a word that contains more than three SYLLABLES —**bic** /,pɒlɪsɪ'læbɪk/ *adj*: *"Unnecessary" is polysyllabic.* —**bically** /kli/ *adv*

pol-y-tech-nic /,pɒli'teknɪk/ *n* also **poly infml** — *n* (esp. in Britain) a college of higher education, similar to a university, providing training and degrees in many subjects, esp. those which prepare people for particular jobs in science, industry, etc. Although degrees from polytechnics are as good as those from universities, they are considered by some people to be less PRESTIGIOUS than university degrees. —compare TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY and see also extra information on page 408

pol-y-the-is-m /'pɒliθi:zəm/ *n* [U] the belief that there is more than one god —compare MONOTHEISM —**ist** *adj*, *n* —**istic** /,pɒliθi:'ɪstɪk/ *adj*

pol-y-thene /'pɒlɪθi:n/ *n* also **polyethylene** esp. *AmE* — *n* [U] a strong light bendable plastic used esp. as a protective covering, for making many common articles: *a polythene bag*

pol-y-un-sat-u-rate /,pɒliən'sætʃərɪt/ *n* a polyunsaturated FATTY ACID: *This vegetable oil is high in polyunsaturates.*

pol-y-un-sat-u-rat-ed /,pɒliən'sætʃərəɪtɪd/ *adj* (of a fat or oil) having chemicals combined in a way that is thought to be good for the health when eaten: *Most vegetable oils contain polyunsaturated fats.* —compare SATURATED FAT

pol-y-u-re-thane /ˌpɒlɪˈjʊərɪθeɪn/ || ˌpaɪ-/ *n* [U] a plastic used esp. in making paints and VARNISH

pom /pɒm||pa:m/ also **pommy**— *n* *AustrE, NZE sl, often derog* an English person, esp. one who has gone to live in Australia or New Zealand. In Australia and New Zealand the popular image of an English person is of someone who is lazy and who complains all the time (a “whinging Pom”).

po-made /pəˈmaɪd, pəˈmeɪd||pəuˈmeɪd/ *n* [U] a sweet-smelling oily substance rubbed on men’s hair to make it smooth, esp. in former times

po-man-der /pəuˈmændəʳ, pəˈmæn-||ˈpəumændəʳ/ *n* a box or ball-shaped container holding sweet-smelling substances, HERBS, etc., used for giving a room or cupboard a pleasant smell

pom-e-gran-ate /ˈpɒmɪgrænɪt||ˈpa:m-/ *n* a round thick-skinned reddish fruit containing a mass of small seeds in a red juicy flesh

pom-mel /ˈpaməl/ *n* 1 the rounded part at the front of a horse’s SADDLE—see picture at HORSE 2 the ball-shaped end of a sword handle

pommel horse /ˈ..../ *n* *AmE* for VAULTING HORSE

pom-my /ˈpɒmi||ˈpaɪ-/ *n* a POM

pomp /pɒmp||pa:mp/ *n* [U] solemn and splendid ceremonial show, esp. on a public or official occasion: *all the pomp of an imperial coronation*

Pom-pa-dour /ˈpɒmpədəʳ||ˈpa:mpədəʳ/, **Madame de** (1721–64) a MISTRESS (2) of King Louis XV of France, from 1745, who had an influence on his choice of government ministers

Pom-pe-i /pɒmˈpeɪ-i||pa:m-/ an ancient city in southern Italy, SE of Naples, which was buried when the VOLCANO Mount Vesuvius erupted (ERUPT) in AD 79. Pompeii was preserved underneath the volcanic ash and LAVA and has helped us to learn many things about Roman civilization.

Pom-pey /ˈpɒmpi||ˈpa:m-/ (106–48 BC) a Roman GENERAL (=military leader) and politician who opposed Julius Caesar but was defeated by him in 48 BC

Pomp-id-ou /ˈpɒmpɪdu:||ˈpa:m-/ **Georges** /ʒɔːʒ||ʒɔːrʒ/ (1911–74) a French politician who was president of France from 1969 until his death

Pompidou Cen-tre /ˈ...../ [the] a MUSEUM in Paris which has paintings by important 20th century artists. The museum building, which is very modern, is made of glass and of metal tubes in bright colours.

pom-pom /ˈpɒmpɒm||ˈpa:mpa:m/ *n* 1 a small woollen ball used as a decoration on garments, esp. hats 2 also **pom-pon** /-pɒn || -pa:n/ a round ball made of loose plastic strings used by CHEERLEADERS, who used to be called pompom girls

pom-pous /ˈpɒmpəs||ˈpa:m-/ *adj* *derog* foolishly solemn and thinking oneself to be important. Pompous words or phrases are marked *pomp* in this dictionary: *The railway guard was a pompous little official, who acted as though he controlled the whole railway system.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness, -posity* /pɒmˈpɒsɪti||pa:mˈpaɪ-/ *n* [U]

ponce¹ /pɒns||pa:ns/ *n* *BrE* 1 *derog sl* a man who acts in an EFFEMINATE way 2 a man who lives with, and on the money earned by, a PROSTITUTE; a PIMP

ponce² *v*

ponce about/around *phr v* [I] *BrE derog sl* (of a man) to act like a PONCE¹ (1), or in a foolish time-wasting way

Ponce de Le-ón /ˌpɒns də ˈliːən||pa:ns-/ **Juan** /wɑːn||hwa:n/ (1460–1521) a Spanish man who discovered Florida when he was searching for the FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH (a flow of water which was supposed to make people young forever)

pon-cho /ˈpɒntʃəu||ˈpa:n-/ *n* -chos a garment for the top half of the body consisting of a single piece of usu. thick woollen cloth, rather like a BLANKET, with a hole in the middle for the head

ponc-y, -ey /ˈpɒnsi||ˈpaɪ-/ *adj* *BrE derog sl* like or typical of a PONCE¹ (1): *wearing a poncy little pale blue bow tie*

pond /pɒnd||pa:nd/ *n* an area of still water smaller than a lake, esp. one that has been artificially made: *The farm has a pond from which cattle can drink.* | *a duck pond* — compare LAKE¹ (1), POOL

pon-der /ˈpɒndəʳ||ˈpa:n-/ *v* [I (on, over); T] to spend time in carefully considering (a fact, difficulty, etc.): *She pon-*

dered for some minutes before giving an answer. | *Successive committees have pondered over this problem without finding a solution.* | *The cabinet would do well to ponder the advisability of such a course of action.* [+*v-ing*] *They’re pondering moving their offices outside London.* [+*wh-*] *We pondered whether to tell him.*

pon-der-ous /ˈpɒndərəs||ˈpa:n-/ *adj fml* 1 slow and awkward because of great size and weight; UNWIELDY: *The elephant lowered its ponderous body into the water.* | (fig., *derog*) *the ponderous government machinery of Whitehall* 2 *derog* dull and solemn; lacking lightness or grace: *a ponderous style of writing* | *the city’s ponderous architecture* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

pone /pəʊn/ *n* [U] CORN PONE

pong /pɒŋ||pa:ŋ/ *v, n* [I] *BrE infml derog* (to make) an unpleasant smell — *~y adj*: *pongy socks*

pon-iard /ˈpɒnjəd||ˈpa:njəd/ *n* a small pointed knife used in former times as a weapon

Pon-ti-ac /ˈpɒtiæk||ˈpa:n-/ *tdmk* an American car made by General Motors

pon-tiff /ˈpɒntɪf||ˈpa:n-/ *n* *tech* for POPE

pon-tif-i-cal /pɒnˈtɪfɪkəl||pa:n-/ *adj tech* 1 with a priest of high rank in charge: *a pontifical high mass* 2 of or from a POPE: *a pontifical letter*

pon-tif-i-cate¹ /pɒnˈtɪfɪkeɪt||pa:n-/ *v* [I (about, on)] *derog* to give one’s opinion or judgment as if it were the only correct one: *Why must Father always pontificate about the duties of women?*

pon-tif-i-cate² /pɒnˈtɪfɪkɪt||pa:n-/ *n* *tech* the position or period of office of a POPE: *during the pontificate of John XXIII*

Pon-tins /ˈpɒntɪnz||ˈpa:n-/ *tdmk* the name of several holiday villages in Britain where people go in the summer and where lots of entertainment is provided at a reasonable price, which made them popular with families and other less wealthy sections of British society: *We always go to Pontins for our holidays.*—see also BUTLINS

Pontius Pilate see Pontius PILATE

pon-toon¹ /pɒnˈtu:n||pa:n-/ *n* a floating hollow metal container or flat-bottomed boat that is fastened to others side by side to support a floating bridge (**pontoon bridge**) across a river

pontoon² *n* [U] *BrE* for BLACKJACK (1)

po-ny /ˈpəʊni/ *n* 1 a small horse—see also PIT PONY, SHANKS’S PONY, SHETLAND PONY 2 *AmE infml* a very small bottle of an alcoholic drink: *Could I have a pony of gin, please?*

Pony Club /ˈ...../ [the] a British club which arranges horse riding activities for children

pony ex-press /ˌ...../ *n* an American postal service in the 1860s which used horses and riders to take the post from Missouri to California. It moved the post much more quickly than any other way.

po-ny-tail /ˈpəʊniteɪl/ *n* hair tied in a bunch high at the back of the head and falling like a horse’s tail: *She has a ponytail* | *wears her hair in a ponytail.* —compare PIGTAIL, PLAIT

pony-trek-king /ˌ...../ *n* [U] *BrE* a holiday activity or sport in which people ride across the country on ponies

poo also **pooh** /pu:/ || also **poo-poo** /ˈ...../, **poop** *AmE—n infml* 1 [U] (used esp. by and to children) solid waste from the bowels; EXCREMENT 2 [S] (used esp. by and to children) an act of passing this waste from the body: *Mummy, Lucy’s done a poo.* —**poo v** [I; T] *infml*: *Bobby’s pooped his pants.*

pooch /pu:tʃ/ *n infml, usu. humor* a dog

poo-dle /ˈpu:dl/ *n* 1 a dog with thick curling hair, often cut in special shapes—see picture at DOG 2 **be someone’s poodle** *BrE humor derog* to be too ready to obey someone or support them in whatever they do

poof, pouf /pu:f, puf/ also **poof-ter** /ˈpu:ftəʳ, ˈpuf-/— *n* *BrE & AustrE derog sl* a male HOMOSEXUAL — *~y adj*

pooh /pu:/ *interj infml* (used for expressing dislike of an unpleasant smell)

Pooh also **Pooh Bear** /ˌ...../ see WINNIE THE POOH

pooh-pooh /ˌ...../ *v* [T] *infml* to express a very low opinion of (an idea, suggestion, effort, etc.) and say that one does not think it will work: *I thought it was quite a good idea, but she pooh-poohed it.*

Pooh-sticks /'pu:striks/ *n* [U] a game played by children (and some adults) in which sticks are thrown into a stream above a bridge, after which the players watch to see which stick appears at the other side of the bridge first (from the stories of Winnie the Pooh, in which the game is described).

pool¹ /pu:l/ *n* **1** a small area of still water in a hollow place, usu. naturally formed: *a rock pool* (=among rocks on the sea shore) **2** [(of)] a small amount of any liquid poured or dropped on a surface: *The wounded man was lying in a pool of blood.* **3** a SWIMMING POOL: *They had a dip in the hotel pool before lunch.* **4** a deeper part of a river where the water is almost still —compare POND

pool² *n* **1** [C] a supply of money, goods, workers, etc., which is shared between and may be used by a number of people: *a pool of skilled labour* —see also CAR POOL, TYPING POOL **2** [C] an amount of money collected from all the players in certain card games, which forms the winner's prize **3** [U] an American game of BILLIARDS played usu. with 15 numbered balls on a table that has six holes —compare SNOOKER¹; see also POOLS

pool³ *v* [T] to combine; share; bring together for the advantage of everyone in a group: *If we pool our ideas, we may be able to produce a really good plan.* | *None of us can afford it separately, so let's pool our resources.*

Poole /pu:l/ a town and port on the SW coast of England, on **Poole Harbour**, a large natural sheltered area of water with an opening to the sea.

pool hall /'l̩ · / *n* AmE POOLROOM

pool-room /'pu:lru:m, -rum/ *n* a place where one can play pool. Poolrooms are often dark and filled with smoke and used mostly by men.

pools /pu:lz/ also **football pools** *fml*— *n* [the+P] (esp. in Britain) an arrangement by which people risk small amounts of money on the results of certain football matches, and those who guess the results correctly win large shares of the combined money. Many people do this, even people who are not particularly interested in football: *He's just won £1000 on the pools.*

poop /pu:p/ *n* **1** *tech* the back end of a ship **2** also **poop deck** /'l̩ · /— the raised floor level at this end **3** AmE *sl* information, esp. with a dependable but unofficial origin: *Who can give me the poop on this new computer?* **4** AmE for POO

pooped /pu:pt/ also **pooped out** /'l̩ · /— *adj* [F] *infml*, esp. AmE very tired

pooper *n* see PARTY POOPER

poop-poo /'l̩ · / AmE for POO

poop-scoop /'l̩ · / also **poop-er-scoop-er** /'pu:pə ,sku:pə' ||-pər-/— *n* *infml* a small spade-like device used by dog owners for removing dog EXCREMENT from the streets. In many towns and cities it is a crime for people not to clean up after their dogs, so they take a poop-scoop with them when they take their dogs for a walk.

poor /puə' / *adj* **1** having very little money and therefore a low standard of living: *He was too poor to buy shoes for his family.* | *a poor neighbourhood with high unemployment* [also *n*, the+P] *This government has helped the rich but done nothing to improve the condition of the poor.* **2** rather *fml* far below the usual standard; low in quality; INFERIOR: *The weather has been very poor this summer.* | *They blamed the situation on poor management.* | *My German is rather poor, and I couldn't make myself understood.* **3** rather *fml* less than is needed or expected; small in size or quantity: *We had a poor crop of beans this year.* **4** rather *fml* (of health) weak; not good: *He's still in poor health after his illness.* **5** [A] *derog* (of someone who loses) showing displeasure instead of praising one's opponent: *He gets angry when he loses a game — he's a poor loser.* **6** [A] deserving or causing pity; unlucky: *Poor David has failed his driving test again.*

poor boy /'l̩ · / *n* AmE for SUBMARINE SANDWICH

poor-house /'puəhaus ||'puər-/ *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ (in former times) a building provided by public money where poor people could live and be fed —see also WORKHOUSE

poor law /'l̩ · / *n* **1** [the] (in Britain in former times) a group of laws concerning help for poor people **2** [C] any of these laws

poor-ly¹ /'puəli ||'puərli/ *adv* rather *fml* **1** badly; not well:

poorly dressed | *poorly paid* | *They did poorly in the exam.*

2 **think poorly of** to have a bad or low opinion of

poorly² *adj* [F] *infml*, esp. BrE ill: *I'm feeling rather poorly today.*

poorly off /'l̩ · 'l̩ · / *adj* [F] **1** having very little money **2** [(for)] not having enough (of): *The school is poorly off for textbooks.* —opposite **well-off**

poor-mouth /'l̩ · - / *v* [I;T] AmE to say that something or someone is not as good as it really is: *He poor-mouths his achievements because he thinks other people don't like really clever people.*

poor-ness /'puənɪs ||'puər-/ *n* [U (of)] rather *fml* lowness (of quality); lack of a desired quality: *the poor-ness of the quality of the materials* —compare POVERTY

poor re-la-tion /'l̩ · 'l̩ · / *n* a person or thing that is the lowest or least important one among similar people or things: *Theatre musicians are often treated like the poor relations of the musical profession.*

poor-spir-it-ed /'l̩ · 'l̩ · / *adj* *lit derog* not brave; lacking confidence or courage — *~ly adv*

poor white trash /'l̩ · 'l̩ · / *n* [U] AmE *derog* poor white people who are not well educated and of the lowest social level

pop¹ /pɒp ||pɑ:p/ *v* -pp- **1** [I;T] to (cause to) make a short sharp explosive sound: *The champagne cork popped when I pulled it out.* | *He blew the bag up and then popped it between his hands.* **2** [I+adv/prep] *infml* to move quickly or suddenly away from a surface; spring: *The child's eyes almost popped out of her head with excitement.* | *A button popped off my shirt when I sneezed.* **3** [I+adv/prep] *infml* to go or come suddenly, quickly, or unexpectedly: *I've just popped in to return your book.* | *I'm afraid she's just popped out for a few minutes.* | *Pop down to the shops and get a bottle of milk.* **4** [T+obj+adv/prep] *infml* to put quickly and lightly: *He popped his head round the door.* | *I'll just pop this cake in the oven.* **5** [T] AmE *infml* to use (PILLS) too often: *He was popping pills all afternoon, trying to calm his nerves.* **6** [T] BrE *old-fash sl* for PAWN¹ **7** **pop one's clogs** BrE *infml humor* to die, esp. unexpectedly **8** **pop the question** *infml* to ask someone to marry you

pop off *phr v* [I] *infml* to die, esp. unexpectedly

pop up *phr v* [I] *infml* **1** to happen or appear suddenly or unexpectedly —see also POP-UP **2** (in BASEBALL) to hit a ball into the air so that it does not travel very far away from the hitter: *He popped up to first* (=he hit the ball in the air towards the player at first base)

pop² *n* **1** [C] a sound like that of a slight explosion: *When he opened the bottle it went pop.* (=made this sound) **2** [U] also **soda** esp. AmE— *infml*, a sweet fizzy drink, usu. made to taste of a particular fruit: *a bottle of pop*

pop³ *n* [U] modern popular music of a simple kind with a strong beat and not usu. of lasting interest, liked esp. by younger people: *I don't like classical music; I prefer pop.* | *pop music* | *a pop concert* —compare ROCK³, ROCK 'N' ROLL

pop³ *n* [U] POP MUSIC: *I don't like classical music; I prefer pop.*

pop⁴ *n* esp. AmE *infml* a father: *Can I borrow the car, pop?*

pop⁵ *abbrev. for:* population


pop-a-dum /'pɒpədəm ||'pɑ:-/ also **papadum**, **poppadum** — *n* a very thin flat Indian bread cooked in hot fat

pop art /'l̩ · 'l̩ · / *n* [U] a form of modern art which shows common objects from everyday life, such as advertisements, articles found around the house, etc., rather than the usual subjects of art —compare OP ART

pop-corn /'pɒpkɔ:n ||'pɑ:pkɔ:rn/ *n* [U] a type of MAIZE that swells and bursts open when heated, usu. eaten warm with salt and butter or sweetened with sugar. People often eat popcorn while they are watching a film at the cinema.

pope /pəʊp/ *n* (often *cap.*) **1** the head of the Roman Catholic Church: *The Pope will visit Britain next year.* | *Pope John XXIII* —compare PAPAL **2** **Is the Pope Catholic?** *infml humor* (said to show that something is thought to be true or clear to everybody): *"Bill got stopped by the police for drunken driving."* *"Will he lose his licence?"* *"Is the Pope Catholic?"* (=he most certainly will lose it). See picture on page 1022

the Pope



Poppy Day



pop-u-la-tion /ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃən||ˌpɑː-/ *n* [*usu sing.*] **1** the number of people living in a particular area, country, etc.: *What was the population of Europe in 1900?* | *There's been a real **population explosion** here over the last decade.* (=the population has become very much larger) | *a city with a population of almost two million* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] the people living in an area: *Half the world's population doesn't get enough to eat.* **3** [+*sing./pl. v*] a particular group or type of people or animals living in a particular

place: *He has a lot of support among the country's white population.* | *the elephant population of Kenya*

pop-u-list /'pɒpjʊlɪst/ 'pa:-/ *n* 1 often derog a person who claims to believe in the wisdom and judgment of ordinary people, esp. in political matters 2 (often cap.) (esp. in the US) a member of a political party that claims to represent ordinary people — **lism** *n* [U]

pop-u-lous /'pɒpjʊləs/ 'pa:-/ *adj* (of a place) having a large population, esp. when compared with size: *London is the most populous area of Britain.* — **ness** *n* [U]

pop-up /'pɒp-ʊ/ *adj* [A] made in such a way that what is inside can spring up or out: *a pop-up toaster* | *a pop-up book*

Pop War-ner /'pɒp wɑːnə/ 'an American organization which teaches children to play FOOTBALL (2) in teams

porce-lain /'pɔːslɪn/ 'pɔːrsəlɪn/ also **china**— *n* [U] (articles made of) a hard white substance made by baking a special sort of fine clay at a high temperature: *a porcelain figure* — compare EARTHENWARE

porch /pɔːtʃ/ 'pɔːrtʃ/ *n* 1 a roofed entrance built out from a house or church — see pictures at CHURCH and HOUSE 2 *AmE* for VERANDA

por-cine /'pɔːsaɪn/ 'pɔːr-/ *adj* tech or derog of or like a pig

por-cu-pine /'pɔːkjʊpaɪn/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* a short-legged animal that has long sharp QUILLS all over its back and sides — compare HEDGEHOG

pore¹ /pɔːr/ *n* a very small opening, esp. in the skin, through which liquids, esp. SWEAT² (1), can pass

pore² *v*

pore over sthg. *phr v* [T] to study or give close attention to (usu. something written or printed): *many hours spent in the library poring over musty documents*

pork /pɔːk/ 'pɔːrk/ *n* [U] meat from pigs: *a pork chop* — compare BACON, HAM¹ (1); see MEAT (USAGE)

pork bar-rel /'pɔːk bɑːrəl/ 'n *AmE sl* a government plan to spend a lot of money in an area in order to gain political advantage: *The party won a great increase in votes as a result of its pork-barrel politics.*

pork-er /'pɔːkə/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* 1 a young pig, made specially fat before being killed for food 2 *humor* a pig

pork pie /'pɔːk paɪ/ 'n 1 [C;U] (esp. in Britain) a small usu. round baked pastry case containing small pieces of cooked pork 2 [C] *BrE infml humor* a lie: *He told quite a few pork pies at that interview!*

pork-pie hat /'pɔːkpaɪ 'hæt/ 'n *BrE* a hat shaped like a pork pie, popular with followers of SKA music

pork rinds /'pɔːk raɪnz/ 'n [P] *AmE* for SCRATCHINGS

pork-y /'pɔːki/ 'pɔːrki/ *adj infml* (esp. of a person) fat

Porky Pig /'pɔːki piɡ/ 'an American television CARTOON character

porn /pɔːn/ 'pɔːrn/ *n* [U] *infml* pornography — **porn**, **por-no** /'pɔːnəʊ/ 'pɔːr-/ *adj*: *a porno movie* | *the porn king/queen of Soho* (=the most important man or woman in the pornography business in Soho)

por-nog-ra-phy /pɔː'nɒgrəfi/ 'pɔːr'nɒzɡ-/ *n* [U] 1 derog the treatment of sexual subjects in pictures, writing or film in a way that is meant to cause sexual excitement 2 books, photographs, films, etc., containing this: *Police have seized several consignments of pornography.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Although people are often too embarrassed or ashamed to admit that they read pornographic magazines, you can find them in most shops which sell newspapers and many people buy them, esp. men. The type of pornography that you see in newspaper shops is called soft pornography and shows NAKED people, esp. women. It is considered much more acceptable than HARD-CORE pornography, which is usu. sold in special sex shops and is offensive to a great many people because it shows sex in more detail and may show violent acts. Many women do not like pornography because they think it encourages bad treatment of or violence against women. There are laws about what you can show in this type of book, film etc. and people can go to prison for selling illegal pornographic materials. ◀

— **pher** *n* — **phic** /'pɔːnə'græfɪk/ 'pɔːr-/ *adj* — **phically** /kli/ *adv*

po-rous /'pɔːrəs/ *adj* allowing liquid to pass slowly through: *porous soil* | *This clay pot is porous.* — **ness**, **-rosity** tech— /pɔː'rɒsɪti/ 'rɔː-, pə-/ *n* [U]

por-poise /'pɔːpəs/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* a fishlike sea animal rather like a DOLPHIN that swims about in groups — see picture at DOLPHIN

por-ridge /'pɔːrɪdʒ/ 'paː-, 'pɔː-/ *BrE* || *oatmeal* *AmE*— *n* [U] 1 a soft breakfast food made by boiling OATMEAL (=crushed grain) in milk or water. Porridge used to be typical of Scotland but is now eaten everywhere in Britain and the US. 2 *BrE sl* a period of time spent in prison: *"Where's Mick got to?" "He's doing porridge."*

Porridge a British television COMEDY programme about life in prison, with Ronnie Barker as the main actor

Porsche /pɔːʃ/ 'pɔːʃə/ 'ɔːr-/ *n* *tdmk* a very expensive type of car, often associated with rich young men

port¹ /pɔːt/ 'pɔːrt/ *n* 1 [C;U] a place where ships can load and unload people or goods; HARBOUR: *The main problem is getting the food from the ports to the interior of the country.* | *ships coming into/leaving port* 2 [C] (sometimes cap. as part of a name) a town with a HARBOUR or DOCKS, on a sea coast or on a river: *London used to be Britain's largest port.* | *Port Said* 3 **any port in a storm** any means of escape from trouble must be accepted, even if it has some disadvantages — see also AIRPORT, FREE PORT, PORT OF CALL, PORT OF ENTRY

port² *n* [U] the left side of a ship or aircraft as one faces forward: *The damaged ship was leaning over to port.* | *on the port side* — compare STARBOARD

port³ *n* [U] strong usu. sweet dark Portuguese wine, usu. drunk after a meal. In Britain in the past, after formal dinner parties, the men would stay behind to have a glass of port while the women went into another room.

port⁴ *v* **port arms** (usu. imperative) (of a soldier) to hold a RIFLE in a sloping position across the body, so that it can be examined by an officer

port⁵ *n* tech an opening on a computer by which connections can be made with other pieces of equipment such as printers or DISK DRIVES

por-ta-ble /'pɔːtəbəl/ 'pɔːr-/ *adj* that can be (easily) carried or moved; quite small and light: *a portable television/type-writer* | (fig.) *a portable pension* (=that can be moved from one job to another) — **bility** /'pɔːtə'bɪlɪti/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* [U]

por-ta-crib /'pɔːtəkɪb/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* *AmE* *tdmk* a CARRYCOT — see picture at BED

Por-ta-kab-in /'pɔːtəkæbɪn/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* *tdmk* a small hut which can be moved by LORRY and used as a temporary office, etc., esp. while a new building is being built

por-tals /'pɔːtlz/ 'pɔːrtlz/ *n* [P (of)] *fml* or *pomp* 1 a very large and important-looking entrance to a building, esp. considered as representing the organization, company, etc., that uses that building 2 a beginning; THRESHOLD (2): *standing at the portals of happiness*

port-cul-lis /pɔːt'kʌlɪs/ 'pɔːrt-/ *n* (in old castles, forts, etc.) a strong gatelike structure of bars with points at the bottom, hung above an entrance and lowered as a protection against attack — see picture at CASTLE

por-tend /pɔː'tend/ 'pɔːr-/ *v* [T] *fml* or *lit* to be a sign or warning of (a future unpleasant event): *What do these strange events portend?*

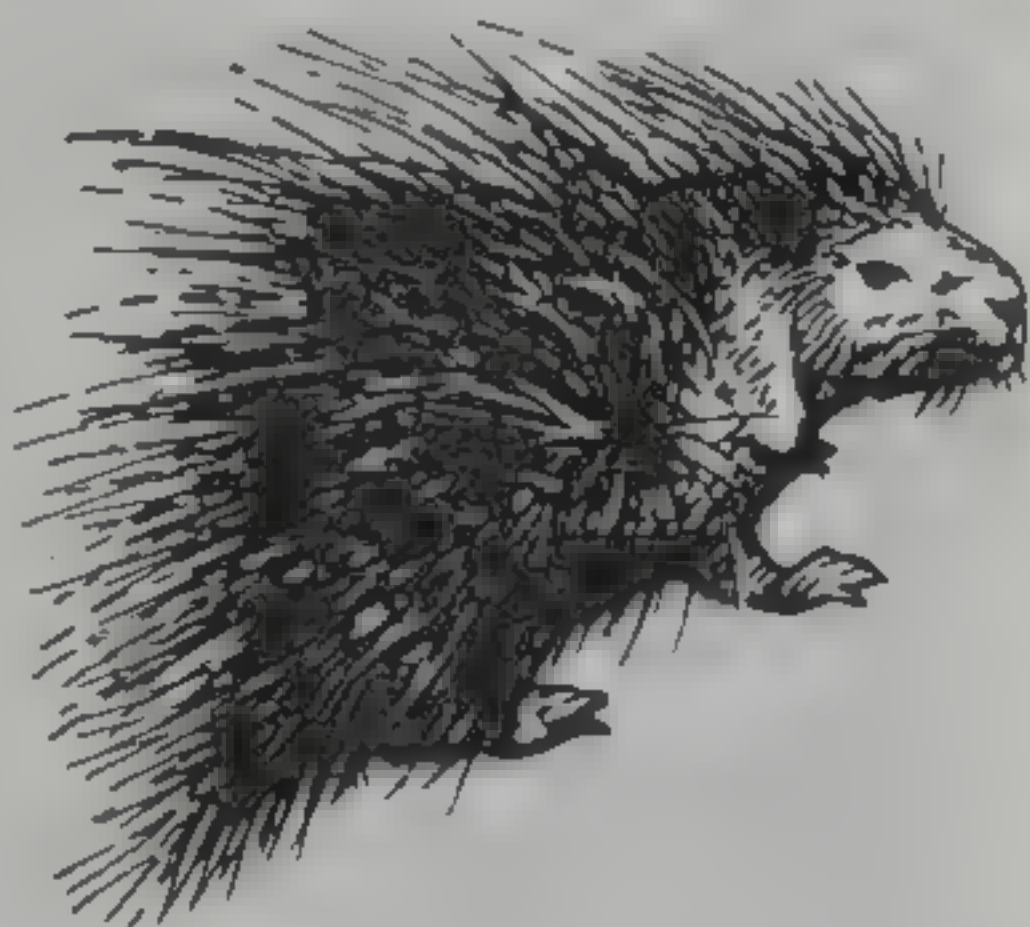
por-tent /'pɔːtent/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* *fml* or *lit* [(of)] a clear sign or warning, esp. of something strange or unpleasant; OMEN: *Dark clouds are gathering, portents of war.*

por-ten-tous /pɔː'tentəs/ 'pɔːr-/ *adj* esp. *lit* 1 *fml* derog solemnly self-important; POMPOUS 2 that warns or tells of future unpleasant events; threatening — **ly** *adv*

por-ter¹ /'pɔːtə/ 'pɔːr-/ *n* 1 a person employed to carry travellers' bags at railway stations, airports, etc. Most people now carry their own bags or use a TROLLEY. 2 a person employed to carry loads at markets 3 esp. *BrE* a person in charge of the entrance to a hotel, school, hospital, etc. — compare JANITOR (2) 4 *AmE* an attendant employed in a sleeping-carriage in a train

porter² *n* [U] (esp. in former times) a dark brown bitter beer

Porter, Cole /kəʊl/ (1891–1964) an American COMPOSER who wrote many famous songs including *Night and Day* and *Let's Do It*. He also wrote MUSICALS and some of these,



porcupine

such as *Kiss Me Kate* and *Can-Can* were made into films. The words of Cole Porter's songs are considered to be WITTY and clever and when people imagine a Cole Porter musical they think of a world of fashionable and SOPHISTICATED people.

Porter, Kath-erine Anne /'kæθərɪn æn/ (1890–1980) an American short story writer

por-ter-house /'pɔ:təhaʊs||'pɔ:rtər-/ also **porterhouse steak** /, ... ' -/ *n* [C;U] (a) STEAK of high-quality BEEF

port-fo-li-o /pɔ:t'fəʊliəʊ||pɔ:rt-/ *n* -lios **1** a large flat case like a very large book cover, for carrying drawings, business papers, etc. **2** a collection of drawings or other papers contained in this: *The artist showed us a portfolio of her drawings.* **3** a collection of different business shares owned by a particular person or company: *an investment portfolio* **4** the job of a particular government minister: *The Prime Minister offered him the foreign affairs portfolio.* | *a minister without portfolio* (=who is not responsible for any particular government department)

port-hole /'pɔ:thəʊl||'pɔ:rt-/ *n* a small usu. circular window in the side of a ship or aircraft

por-ti-co /'pɔ:tɪkəʊ||'pɔ:r-/ *n* -coes or -cos a covered entrance to a building, sometimes consisting of a roof supported by PILLARS

portion¹ /'pɔ:ʃən||'pɔ:r-/ *n* [(of)] **1** [C] a part of something larger, considered separately from the rest: *the front portion of the train* | *The computer factory represents only a small portion of the company's business.* | *the first portion of the book* **2** [C] a share of something that is divided among two or more people: *The driver must bear a portion of the blame for the accident* **3** [C] a standard amount of a particular food for one person as served in a restaurant: *He was hungry and ordered an extra portion of potatoes.* **4** [S] *fml* or *lit* a person's fate or fortune; LOT² (6): *Sorrow has always been her portion.*

portion² *v*

portion sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (among, between)] to divide and give; share: *The money was portioned out among the four children.*

Port-land /'pɔ:tlənd||'pɔ:rt-/ an inland port in NW Oregon, USA and the largest city in the state

port-ly /'pɔ:tlɪ||'pɔ:r-/ *adj* *euph* or *humor* (esp. of a rather old man) round and fat; **STOUT**: *a portly old gentleman* --liness *n* [U]

port-man-teau /pɔ:t'mæntəʊ||pɔ:rt-/ *n* -teaus or -teaux /təʊz/ *old-fash* a very large case for a traveller's clothes, esp. one that opens into two equal parts

portmanteau word /, ... ' -/ *n* an invented word that combines the meaning and sound of two words; **BLEND**: *"Motel" is a portmanteau word, made up from "motor" and "hotel".*

Port-mei-ri-on /pɔ:t'merɪən||pɔ:rt-/ a small village in the Italian style in N Wales, all planned by Clough Williams-Ellis and popular with tourists

Port-o-bel-lo Road /,pɔ:təbeləʊ 'rəʊd||,pɔ:r-/ [(the)] a street in W London known for its Saturday market for ANTIQUES (=furniture, jewellery, etc. made in an earlier period)

port of call /, ... ' -/ *n* **ports of call** **1** a port where a ship stops (regularly) for travellers, supplies, repairs, etc. **2** *infml* a place which one visits or stops at during a journey or set of activities: *My next port of call is the library.*

port of en-try /, ... ' -/ *n* **ports of entry** a place such as a HARBOUR or airport where people or goods may enter a country

Port of Lon-don Au-thor-i-ty /, ... ' -/ also **PLA** *abbrev.* — [the] the organization which controls the port of London

Por-ton Down /,pɔ:tn 'daʊn||,pɔ:r-/ a place in the S of England with a government LABORATORY formerly used for studying GERM WARFARE (=the use of disease-producing bacteria in war)

Por-to Ri-co /,pɔ:təʊ 'rɪ:kəʊ||,pɔ:r-/ see PUERTO RICO

por-trait /'pɔ:trɪt||'pɔ:r-/ *n* **1** [(of)] a painting, drawing, or photograph of a real person or group of people: *I commissioned her to paint my portrait.* (=a picture of me) | *a portrait painter* | (fig.) *His book gives/paints a very convincing portrait* (=description) *of life in medieval England.* —see *picture* at **CARICATURE** **2** **PORTRAIT MODE**

portrait mode /'... ' -/ *n* [U] **tech** in **portrait mode** (of paper, or a picture on a page) with the shorter edge from left to right (HORIZONTAL) and the longer edge from top to bottom (VERTICAL): *I can't get my file to print out in portrait mode.* —compare **LANDSCAPE MODE**

Portrait of the Ar-tist as a Young Man /, ... ' -/ a book by James Joyce based on the story of his own life

por-trai-ture /'pɔ:trɪtʃəʊ||'pɔ:r-/ *n* [U] the art of making portraits

por-tray /pɔ:'treɪ||pɔ:r-/ *v* [T] **1** to be or make a representation or description of: *This painting portrays the death of Nelson.* | *The writer portrays life in a refugee camp very vividly.* **2** [(as)] to describe according to one's opinion: *In British history books Richard III is usually portrayed as a wicked man.* **3** to act the part of (a particular character) in a play — ~ **al** *n* [C;U (of)]: *The actor's portrayal of Othello was superb.*

Ports-mouth /'pɔ:tsməθ||'pɔ:r-/ a town and port on the S coast of England, known for its navy base and as a place from which ferries (FERRY¹) go to France

Port Stan-ley /, ... ' -/ the capital of the Falkland Islands. It was the centre of attention during the Falklands War of 1982 as the place where the war started and ended.

Port Tal-bot /pɔ:t 'tɔ:lbət||pɔ:rt-/ a port and industrial town in S Wales

Por-tu-gal /'pɔ:tfʊgəl||'pɔ:r-/ a country in SW Europe, W of Spain, bordering the Atlantic; capital Lisbon; population 10,467,000 (1989). Portugal is a popular holiday place for British people.

Por-tu-guese /,pɔ:tfʊ'gɪz-||,pɔ:r-/ *n* **1** [the +P] people from Portugal **2** [U] of the language of Portugal, Brazil, etc. —**Portuguese** *adj*: *I'm Portuguese.* | *Portuguese wine*

Portuguese man-of-war /, ... ' -/ *n* a large JELLYFISH with long poisonous parts (TENTACLES) hanging beneath its floating body

pose¹ /pəʊz/ *v* **1** [I (for); T] to (cause to) sit or stand in a particular position, esp. in order to be photographed, painted, etc.: *After the wedding we all posed for a photograph.* **2** [T] to be the cause of (something difficult to deal with); **PRESENT**: *The high cost of oil poses serious problems for industry.* | *Pollution poses a threat to the continued existence of this species.* **3** [T] to ask (a question that is difficult or needs to be carefully thought about) **4** [I] *derog* to behave unnaturally or pretend to be cleverer, more artistic, etc. than one really is, in order to attract interest or admiration: *Stop posing!* —compare **POSTURE**²

pose as sthg. *phr v* [T] to pretend to be: *The spy posed as an office worker to get into the building.*

pose² *n* **1** a position in which someone stands, sits, etc., esp. in order to be photographed, painted, etc.: *The photographer stood his model in various poses.* **2** *derog* an unnatural way of behaving, or the act of pretending to be cleverer, more artistic, etc. than one really is, in order to attract (undeserved) interest or admiration; **AFFECTATION**: *He's always talking about his deep interest in literature, but it's just a pose.* —compare **POSTURE**¹

Po-sei-don /pə'saɪdn/ the Greek name for NEPTUNE

pos-er /'pəʊzəʊ||'pɔ:r-/ *n* *infml* **1** a difficult or awkward question **2** a matter that is awkward to deal with **3** *derog* esp. *BrE* a poseur

po-seur /pəʊ'zɜ:ʔ||'pɔ:r-/ *n* *derog* someone who behaves unnaturally or pretends to be cleverer, more artistic, etc. than they really are, in order to attract attention or admiration —compare **POSE**² (2)

pos-ey /'pəʊzi/ *adj* *infml* of, or typical of, a poseur; **PRETENTIOUS**: *She disliked his posey remarks about how his work had influenced modern art.* | *a posey wine bar*

posh /pɒʃ||pɔ:ʃ/ *adj* *infml*, esp. *BrE* **1** *usu.* *apprec* fashionable, splendid, and usu. expensive: *a posh hotel* **2** *sometimes derog* for or typical of people of high social class: *a posh part of town* | *a posh accent* —**posh** *adv* *BrE* *non-standard*: *Doesn't she talk posh!*

pos-it /'pɒzɪt||'pɔ:-/ *v* [T] *fml* to suggest for the purpose of argument; **POSTULATE**

po-si-tion¹ /pə'zɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a place where someone or something is or stands, esp. in relation to other objects, places, etc.: *The castle occupies a strategic position overlooking the valley.* | *This footballer usually plays in an attacking position.* | *Can you find our position on this*

map? | *The army will attack the enemy's positions.* (=places where they have placed soldiers and guns) **2** [U] the place where someone or something is supposed to be; the proper place: *The shelves are held in position by metal brackets.* | *The rocket puts the satellite into position high above the Earth.* | *The guard took up his position outside the hospital door.* **3** [C] the way in which someone or something is placed or moves, stands, sits, etc.: *He had to work in a most uncomfortable position under the car.* | *in a sitting position* **4** [C (in)] a particular place or rank in an organization, competition, etc.: *She finished in second position in the race.* | *This sort of scandal could be disastrous to a man in my position.* (=of my high rank in society) **5** [C usu. sing.] a situation; state: *It was supposed to be secret; by telling everyone, you've put me in a very difficult position.* | *In the company's present position, they can't afford to offer higher wages.* [+to-v] *I'd like to help you, but I'm afraid I'm not in a position/I'm in no position to do so.* (=I can't) **6** [C (on)] an opinion or judgment on a matter; ATTITUDE: *What's your position on this question?* [+that] *He takes the position that what his sister does is no concern of his.* **7** [C (with, in)] fml a job; employment: *to apply for a position with/in an oil company* | *a position of responsibility* **8** jockey/manoeuvre/jostle for position to compete keenly in order to gain an advantage over others who are trying to get the same thing as oneself: *They knew the director's job was going to become vacant soon, and they were both jockeying for position.* —see JOB (USAGE)

▷ USAGE Compare **place**, **position**, and **location**.

Place is the ordinary word when talking about where something is or happens: *I'll show you the place where I was born.* **Position** is used to talk about the place where something is or should be in relation to other places: *He drew a plan showing the position of all the furniture in the room.* **Location** is a formal or technical word for **place** or **position**: *The company has found a suitable location for its new headquarters.* <

position² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to put in the stated position: *He positioned himself just by the window so he could see what was going on outside.*

po-si-tion-al /pə'zɪʃənəl/ *adj* concerning position, esp. (in sports) the position that a player takes up on the field: *The manager made some positional changes for the next game.* (=kept the same players, but they played in different positions)

pos-i-tive¹ /'pɒzɪtɪv/ || 'pa:z-/ *adj* **1** [F (of, about)] (of a person) having no doubt; sure: "Are you sure?" "Positive." (=Yes, I am sure.) | *It seemed unlikely to me, but she seemed absolutely positive of/about it.* [+ (that)] *Are you positive (that) you've never seen that man before?* **2** often *apprec* leading to practical action; CONSTRUCTIVE: *positive advice* | *positive thinking* **3** showing confidence and hope: *a positive attitude to life* **4** leaving no possibility of doubt; DEFINITE: *It's no use giving the police all these vague times and dates; they need something positive to go on.* | *These fingerprints are positive proof/proof positive that he used the gun.* **5** [no comp.] (in grammar) of the simple form of an adjective or adverb, which expresses no COMPARISON: "Good" is the positive form of the adjective, "better" is the comparative. —compare COMPARATIVE¹ (1), SUPERLATIVE¹ (1) **6** [no comp.] (in MATHEMATICS) (of a number or quantity) greater than zero: *Twelve is a positive amount.* **7** [no comp.] (of electricity) of the type that is carried by PROTONS **8** [no comp.] (of a photograph) having light and dark as they are in nature, not the other way around **9** (of a medical test) showing signs of the presence of a substance or growth: *The test was positive; you're pregnant!* **10** [no comp.] *med* having RHESUS FACTOR in the blood: *RH-positive blood* **11** [A no comp.] (used for giving force to a noun) complete; real: *It was a positive delight to hear her sing.* —opposite **negative** (for 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) — ~ness *n* [U]

positive² *n* **1** (in grammar) the POSITIVE¹ (5) form of an adjective or adverb: *The positive of "prettiest" is "pretty".* **2** a POSITIVE¹ (8) photograph

positive di-scrim-i-na-tion /,pɒzɪtɪv dɪ'skrɪmɪ'nəʃən/ *BrE* || also **affirmative action** — *n* [U] the practice or principle of favouring people who are often treated unfairly, esp. because of their sex or race —compare REVERSE DISCRIMINATION

pos-i-tive-ly /'pɒzɪtɪvli/ || 'pa:z-/ *adv* **1** in a POSITIVE¹ (1,4) way, esp. (as if) with certainty: *He said quite positively*

that he would come, and we were all surprised when he didn't. **2** *informal* (used for adding force to an expression) really; in fact: *She's not just pretty, she's positively beautiful!* **3** *tech* in a POSITIVE¹ (7) way (esp. in the phrase **positively charged**)

positive pole /,pɒzɪtɪv 'pəʊl/ *n* **1** the end of a MAGNET which turns naturally towards the Earth **2** an ANODE

positive vet-ting /,pɒzɪtɪv 'vetɪŋ/ *n* [U] in Britain, the practice of checking certain government workers, before telling them official secrets, to make sure that they are not working against the state

pos-i-tiv-is-m /'pɒzɪtɪvɪzəm/ || 'pa:z-/ *n* [U] a PHILOSOPHY (=a system of thought) based on real facts that can be experienced and proved, rather than on ideas formed in the mind —ist *n*

pos-i-tron /'pɒzɪtrɒn/ || 'pa:zɪ'tra:n/ *n* a very small piece of matter (ELEMENTARY PARTICLE) that is like an ELECTRON but is positively charged

poss. /pɒs/ || 'pa:z/ **1** *BrE informal abbrev. for:* possible: *Do it by Monday if poss.* **2** *written abbrev. for:* POSSESSIVE¹ (2) —compare PASS.

pos-se /'pɒsi/ || 'pa:si/ also **posse com-i-ta-tus** /,pɒsi kɒmɪ'teɪtəs/ || 'pa:si kɑ:m-/ *fml* — *n* [(of)] (in the US) a group of men gathered together by a SHERIFF (=local law officer) to help find a criminal or keep order: (fig.) *The film star was pursued all over the country by a posse* (=group) of reporters.

pos-sess /pə'zes/ *v* [T not in progressive forms] **1** *fml* to have as one's property, as a quality, etc.; own: *The police asked me if I possessed a gun.* **2** (of a feeling or idea) to influence (someone) so completely as to make them do esp. something foolish: [+obj+to-v] *I don't know what possessed him to* (=made him) *drive so fast down that busy street.*

pos-sessed /pə'zest/ *adj* **1** wildly mad, (as if) controlled by an evil spirit: [after *n*] *He was waving the knife and screaming like a man possessed.* **2** [F+of] *fml* or *lit* having: *He's never been possessed of* (=had) *much sense.* —see also SELF-POSSESSED

pos-ses-sion /pə'zefən/ *n* **1** [U (of)] the state of having, holding, or owning something; ownership: *Dangerous drugs were found in her possession/She was found in possession of dangerous drugs.* | *When her father died, she came into possession of a large fortune.* | *While our team is in possession/has possession* (=has the ball) *the other team can't score.* | *The police arrested him and took possession of certain substances found in his house.* (=they took the substances from him) | (*fml* or *pomp*) *According to facts in my possession* (=facts that I know about) *he cannot possibly be guilty.* **2** [U (of)] esp. *law* actual control and use: *We've bought the house, but we take/get possession (of it) before July.* **3** [C often pl.] a piece of personal property: *The people had to gather up their few possessions and escape to the hills.* **4** [C] a country controlled or governed by another: *Britain's former overseas possessions* **5** [U] the condition of being under the control of an evil spirit **6** **possession is nine tenths/nine points of the law** a person who actually possesses a thing is in a better position to keep it than someone else who may have a better claim to own it

pos-ses-sive¹ /pə'zesɪv/ *adj* **1** *derog* a unwilling to share one's own things with other people **b** wanting someone to have feelings of love or friendship only for oneself: *a possessive father who resents his daughter's boyfriends* **2** (in grammar) of or being a word that shows ownership or connection: "My" and "its" are possessive adjectives. — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

possessive² *n* (in grammar) a possessive word or form: "Hers" is the possessive of "she". —compare GENITIVE

pos-ses-sor /pə'zesə/ || 'pa:z-/ *n* [(of) usu. sing.] *fml* a person who owns or has something (often a quality rather than a piece of property): *He is the (proud) possessor of* (=he has) *a fine singing voice.*

pos-set /'pɒsɪt/ || 'pa:z-/ *n* a drink made from warm milk mixed with wine or beer, taken in former times to cure colds

pos-si-bil-i-ties /,pɒsɪ'bɪlɪtiz/ || 'pa:z-/ *n* [P] ability to be developed, improved, or made useful in the future; POTENTIAL: *The flat's in a poor condition but it has distinct possibilities if you can decorate it and clean it up a bit.*

pos-si-bil-i-ty /,pɒsɪ'bɪlɪti/ || 'pa:z-/ *n* **1** [S;U (of)] a (degree

of) likelihood: *The fire looked like an accident, but the police are still considering the possibility of (=considering whether it could have been) arson.* [+that] *"Is there any possibility that you'll be back by the weekend?" "There's a strong possibility I won't."* 2 [U] the fact of being possible: *Travel outside our solar system is not within the realms of possibility (=is not possible) at present.* 3 [C] something that is possible: *The general would not accept that defeat was a possibility.*

pos-si-ble ¹ /'pɒsɪbəl/ ¹ *adj* 1 that can exist, happen, or be done: *It's no longer possible to find a cheap flat in London.* | *I'll do everything possible to help you. I'll help you if (at all) possible.* (=if it is possible) | *Do it as soon as possible.* (=as soon as you can) 2 [F] that may or may not be, happen, or be expected: *It is possible that the doctor may want you to have an X-ray.* | *The supermarket is probably closed by now, but it's possible that it's still open.* 3 acceptable; suitable: *This is only one of many possible answers.*

possible ² *n* 1 [the] that which can exist or can be done: *That's quite beyond the bounds of the possible!* (=that is completely impossible) 2 [C] a person or thing that might be suitable: *Emma's a possible for the job.*

pos-si-bly /'pɒsɪbli/ ¹ *adv* 1 in accordance with what is possible: *I'll do all I possibly can.* | *You can't possibly walk 20 miles in an hour!* (=it's impossible) 2 perhaps: *"Will you come with us tomorrow?" "Possibly, I'm not sure yet."* | (in polite requests) *Could you possibly lend me £10?*

pos-sum /'pɒsəm/ ¹ *also opossum esp. BrE— n* **pos-sums or possum** 1 any of various types of a small tree-climbing animal found in either America or Australia 2 **play possum infml** to pretend to be asleep or inattentive in order to deceive someone

post ¹ /pəʊst/ *n* 1 [C] (often in comb.) a strong thick upright pole or bar made of wood, metal, etc., fixed into the ground or some other base, esp. as a support: *The fence was made of wooden posts and barbed wire.* | *a gatepost* | *a signpost* 2 [the] the finishing place in a race, esp. a horse race: *The horses galloped towards the winning/finishing post.* | *My horse got beaten at the post.* (=when it was very close to finishing the race) 3 [C] *infml* for GOALPOST: *The ball hit the post.* —see also FIRST PAST THE POST, from pillar to post (PILLAR), pipped at the post (PIP⁴)

post ² *esp. BrE || mail esp. AmE— n* 1 [the;U] the official system for carrying letters, parcels, etc., from the sender to the receiver: *I sent the parcel by post.* | *My reply is in the post and you will probably receive it tomorrow.* | *The parcel got lost in the post.* —see also by return (of post) (RETURN² (6)) 2 [(the) S;U] (a single official collection or delivery of) letters, parcels, etc., sent by this means: *Has the post arrived?* | *A letter has come for you in the second post.* (=the second delivery of the day) | *Has any post come for me today?* 3 [the] *infml* an official place, box, etc., where stamped letters are left for sending: *I've just taken her birthday card down to the post.* —compare PILLAR BOX, POSTBOX, POST OFFICE; see also STAGING POST; see MAIL (USAGE)

post ³ *v* [T(OFF, to)] 1 *esp. BrE || mail esp. AmE—* to send (a letter, parcel, etc.) by post: *I must post off all my Christmas cards this week.* | *Could you post this letter for me please?* | *I posted it (to you) on Friday.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Did you post John the book?* | (fig.) *Bring me back the key. If I'm not in when you call you can post it through my letterbox.* 2 **keep someone posted** to continue to give someone all the latest news about something

post ⁴ *n* 1 a job: *The vacant post was advertised in today's paper.* —see JOB (USAGE) 2 a a special place of duty, esp. on guard or on watch: *The soldier was punished for falling asleep at his post.* b a military base or camp —see also LAST POST, TRADING POST

post ⁵ *|| also station esp. AmE— v* [T] 1 to place (soldiers, policemen, etc.) on duty in a special place, esp. as a guard: *Pickets were posted at the factory gate.* 2 [+obj+adv/prep] *esp. BrE* to send or appoint to a particular army group, a place or duty with a company, etc.: *Jackson has been posted to Hong Kong/posted overseas.*

post ⁶ *v* [T] 1 [(UP)] to put up a notice about (something) on a wall, board, post, etc., so as to make it public: *The names of the members of the team will be posted up today.* 2 [+obj+adj;usu pass.] to make known as being, by putting up a notice: *The ship was posted missing.*

Post ¹ [the] 1 see SUNDAY POST 2 see WASHINGTON POST

Post ², **Em-i-ly** /'emɪli/ (1872–1960) an American writer of books and newspaper articles on ETIQUETTE (=correct behaviour)

post- see WORD FORMATION

post-age /'pəʊstɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the money charged for carrying a letter, parcel, etc., by post: *Please enclose £5.50 plus 99p postage.*

postage me-ter /'.. .. / *n* *AmE* a machine which puts a mark on letters and packages to show that postage has been paid and which is used mostly by businesses

postage stamp /'.. .. / *n* *fml* for STAMP² (1)

post-al /'pəʊstl/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* 1 connected with the public letter service: *Postal charges have gone up again.* 2 sent by post: *a postal reminder*

postal or-der /'.. .. / *n* (in Britain) an official paper of a particular value which can be sent by post. The receiver can change it for money of the same value at a post office: *a 50p postal order* —compare MONEY ORDER

Postal Ser-vice /'.. .. / *also US Postal Service [the] AmE* the official name for the US government department responsible for collecting and delivering post

postal vote /'.. .. / *n* a vote sent through the post, esp. by a person who cannot be present to vote on the day of an election

post-bag /'pəʊstbæg/ *n* *esp. BrE* 1 [C] a postman's bag for carrying letters; MAILBAG 2 [S] *infml* all the letters received by someone at one particular time: *The magazine's advice column always gets a big postbag.*

post-box /'pəʊstbɒks/ *-bɒks/ esp. BrE || mailbox, mail drop AmE— n* an official metal box in a public place, fixed to the ground or on a wall, into which people can put letters to be collected and sent by post —compare POST² (3); see also LETTERBOX, PILLAR BOX

post-card /'pəʊstkɑːd/ *-kɑːrd/ n* 1 a card of a fixed size for sending messages by post without an envelope 2 also **picture postcard fml—** a card like this with a picture or photograph on one side

► **CULTURAL NOTE** People on holiday often send postcards to friends and to people in their family who are not on holiday. The words "Wish you were here" are often mentioned in jokes as being a typical thing to write on a postcard. In many seaside towns in Britain, there are **saucy postcards** on sale. These are usu. CARTOONS, often showing a large woman with big breasts, and a small, weak-looking man, and almost always involving a joke about sex. ◀

post-code /'pəʊstkəʊd/ *BrE || zip code AmE— n* a group of letters and/or numbers that mean a particular small area, and can be added to a postal address so that letters, etc. can be delivered more quickly

post-date /,pəʊst'deɪt/ *v* [T] 1 to write a date later than the actual date of writing on (a letter, cheque, etc.): *My rent's due on Monday and I'm not paid until Friday — I'll have to postdate the rent cheque.* —compare ANTEDATE, BACKDATE 2 to happen later in history than

post-doc-tor-al /,pəʊst'dɒktərəl/ *|| -'dɒːk-/ also post-doc* /,pəʊst'dɒk/ *|| -'dɒːk-/ AmE infml— adj* of or related to ACADEMIC or professional work following a PHD

post-er /'pəʊstə/ *n* a large printed notice, picture, or photograph: *They put up posters all round the town advertising the circus.*

poster col-our /'.. .. / *n* POSTER PAINT

post boxes



a British post box



an American mailbox

poste res-tante /ˌpəʊst'restənt/ -res'tɑːnt/ *BrE* || **general delivery** *AmE*— *n* [U] a post office department to which letters for a traveller can be sent and where they will be kept until the person collects them

pos-te-ri-or /pəʊ'stɪəriə/ || pɑː-/ *adj* [*no comp.*] **1** [F+to] *fml* later (than); after **2** [A] (in BIOLOGY) nearer the back — opposite **anterior**

posterior ² *n* *humor* the part of the body a person sits on; **BOTTOM**

pos-ter-i-ty /pəʊ'stɪəti/ || pɑː-/ *n* [U] (people of) the future: *His fame will go down to posterity.* (=He will be famous long after he is dead.) | *These wonderful paintings should be preserved for posterity.*

poster paint /'..-/ also **poster colour**— *n* [C;U] brightly coloured paint that contains no oil, used e.g. for painting pictures, advertisements, etc.

post ex-change /'..-/ *n* *AmE* **PX**

post-fem-i-nist /ˌpəʊst'femɪnɪst/ *adj* developing from and including the ideas and beliefs of **FEMINISM** (=a movement supporting equality for women): *a postfeminist book/writer/artist/approach*

post-free /ˌ..-/ *esp. BrE* || **postpaid** *esp. AmE*— *adj, adv* without any (further) charge to the sender for posting: *Send £2 for our post-free catalogue.* —compare **FREEPOST**

post-grad-u-ate /ˌpəʊst'grædʒuət/ || -'grædʒuət/ also **post-grad** *infml* || **graduate** *esp. AmE*— *n, adj* (a person doing studies that are) done at a university after one has received one's first degree: *a postgraduate course*

post-haste /ˌpəʊst'heɪst/ *adv* *lit* at very great speed; in a great hurry

post horn /'..-/ *n* (in the 18th and 19th centuries) a horn blown by a person riding on a carriage as a warning

post-hu-mous /'pɒstjʊməs/ || 'pɑːstjə-/ *adj* — ~ly *adv* happening after someone has died: *The medal was awarded posthumously.*

post-ie /'pəʊsti/ *n* *esp. ScotE, CanE, & AustrE infml* a postman

pos-til-ion, -till- /pə'stɪljən/ *n* (in former times) a servant who rides on any of the horses pulling a carriage when there is no driver on or in the carriage. The words "my postilion has been struck by lightning" are sometimes mentioned in jokes as being a typical, nearly useless phrase found in an old-fashioned **PHRASEBOOK** for English people travelling abroad.

post-im-pres-sion-is-m /ˌ..-'..-/ *n* [U] a late 19th-century style of painting in which paintings have strong colour and a strong plan — ~ist *n, adj*

post-in-dus-tri-al /ˌ..-'..-/ *adj* of the period in the late 20th century when heavy industries (**HEAVY INDUSTRY**) have become less important, computers and **ELECTRONICS** more important, and people have more free time

post-ing /'pəʊstɪŋ/ *n* [(to)] *esp. BrE* an appointment to a **POST**⁴, esp. in the armed forces: *He wasn't very pleased about his posting to a remote northern town.*

postman



post-man /ˌpəʊstmən/ *esp. BrE* || **mailman** *esp. AmE*— *n* -men /mən/ a person whose job is to collect and deliver letters, parcels, etc. People often make jokes about postmen being chased and bitten by fierce dogs while they are delivering letters.

Postman Pat /ˌ..-'..-/ a character in British books and television programmes for children. Postman Pat is a happy postman who drives around in his van delivering letters and parcels with his cat, Jess.

postman's knock /ˌ..-'..-/ *BrE* || **post office** *AmE*— *n* [U] a children's game in which a player pretends to deliver a letter to another player and gets a kiss as a reward

post-mark /ˌpəʊstmɑːk/ || -mɑːrk/ *n* an official mark made on a letter, parcel, etc., usu. over the stamp, showing when and from where it is sent — **postmark** *v* [T *usu. pass.*] : [+obj+n] *The parcel was postmarked Brighton.*

post-mas-ter /ˌpəʊst'mɑːstə/ || -mæ-/ **post-mis-tress** /-ˌmɪstrəs/ *fem.*— *n* a person in charge of a post office

Postmaster Gen-er-al /ˌ..-'..-/ *n* **Postmasters General** a person who is in charge of a national postal system

post me-rid-i-em /ˌpəʊst mə'rɪdiəm/ *adv fml* rare for **PM**

post-mod-ern-is-m /ˌ..-'..-/ a style of building, decoration, art, etc., esp. in the 1980s, which uses an unusual mixing of old and new forms —compare **MODERNISM** (2) — **post-modernist** *n, adj*

post-mor-tem /ˌpəʊst'mɔːtəm/ || -'mɔːr-/ *n* **1** also **postmortem ex-am-i-na-tion** /ˌ..-'..-/ *fml*, **autopsy**— an examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death **2** an examination of a plan or event that failed in order to discover the cause of failure: *They held a postmortem on the company's poor sales results.*

post-na-tal /ˌpəʊst'neɪtəl/ *adj* *tech* of or for the time after a birth, or of a recently born child: *postnatal care for mother and baby* —compare **ANTENATAL**

post-natal de-pres-sion /ˌ..-'..-/ *n* [U] an illness in which a woman feels **DEPRESSED** after her baby has been born

post of-ice /'..-/ *n* **1** [C] a building, office, shop, etc., which sells stamps, deals with the post, and does certain other government business, such as (in Britain) selling television **LICENCES** and paying **PENSIONS** **2** [U] *AmE* for **POSTMAN'S KNOCK**

Post Of-ice also **GPO** *old-fash.*— [the] the government organization responsible for the post in Britain

post office box /'..-'..-/ *n* *fml* for **P O BOX**

Post Office Tow-er /ˌ..-'..-/ [the] a former name for the **TELECOM TOWER**

post-paid /ˌpəʊst'peɪd/ *adj, adv* *esp. AmE* for **POST-FREE**

post-pone /pəʊs'pəʊn/ *v* [T (until, to)] to delay; move to some later time: *We're postponing our holiday until August.* [+v-ing] *to postpone making a decision* —compare **ADJOURN**, **CANCEL** (1), — ~ment *n* [C;U]

post-pran-di-al /ˌpəʊst'prændiəl/ *adj* *humor* or *pomp* happening just after dinner: *a postprandial snooze.*

post-script /'pəʊs,skɪpt/ also **PS** *infml*— *n* a short addition to a letter, below the place where one has signed one's name: (fig.) *He added a brief postscript to his speech, giving the latest figures.*

post-trau-mat-ic stress dis-or-der /ˌ..-'..-'..-/ *n* [U] a **PSYCHOLOGICAL** illness which somebody suffers as a result of a terrible experience such as a plane crash

pos-tu-lant /'pɒstjələnt/ || 'pɑːstjə-/ *n* *tech* a person who is preparing to enter a religious **ORDER**¹ (9)

pos-tu-late¹ /'pɒstjəleɪt/ || 'pɑːstjə-/ *v* [T] *fml* to suggest (something) as being likely or as a base for further reasoning, even though it has not been proved: *Scientists have postulated a missing link to account for the development of human beings from apes.* [+that] *Even if we postulate that she had a motive for the murder, that still doesn't mean that she did it.*

pos-tu-late² /'pɒstjələɪt/ || 'pɑːstjə-/ *n* *esp. tech* something supposed or known (but not proved) to be true, on which an argument or piece of scientific reasoning is based

pos-ture¹ /'pɒstʃə/ || 'pɑːs-/ *n* **1** [S;U] the general way of holding the body when standing, walking, and sitting: *Humans have a naturally erect posture.* | *good/bad posture* **2** [C] a particular bodily position; **POSE**: *I had to bend over in a rather uncomfortable/embarrassing posture.* **3** [C (on) *usu. sing.*] a way of behaving or thinking on a particular occasion; **ATTITUDE**: *The government's posture on this new trade agreement seems very unhelpful.* —compare **STANCE**

posture² *v* [I] *often derog* to talk or behave unnaturally or insincerely, esp. in order to attract attention or admiration —compare **POSE**¹ (4) — ~ing [C;U] : *Despite their posturings, the politicians still haven't solved the problem.*

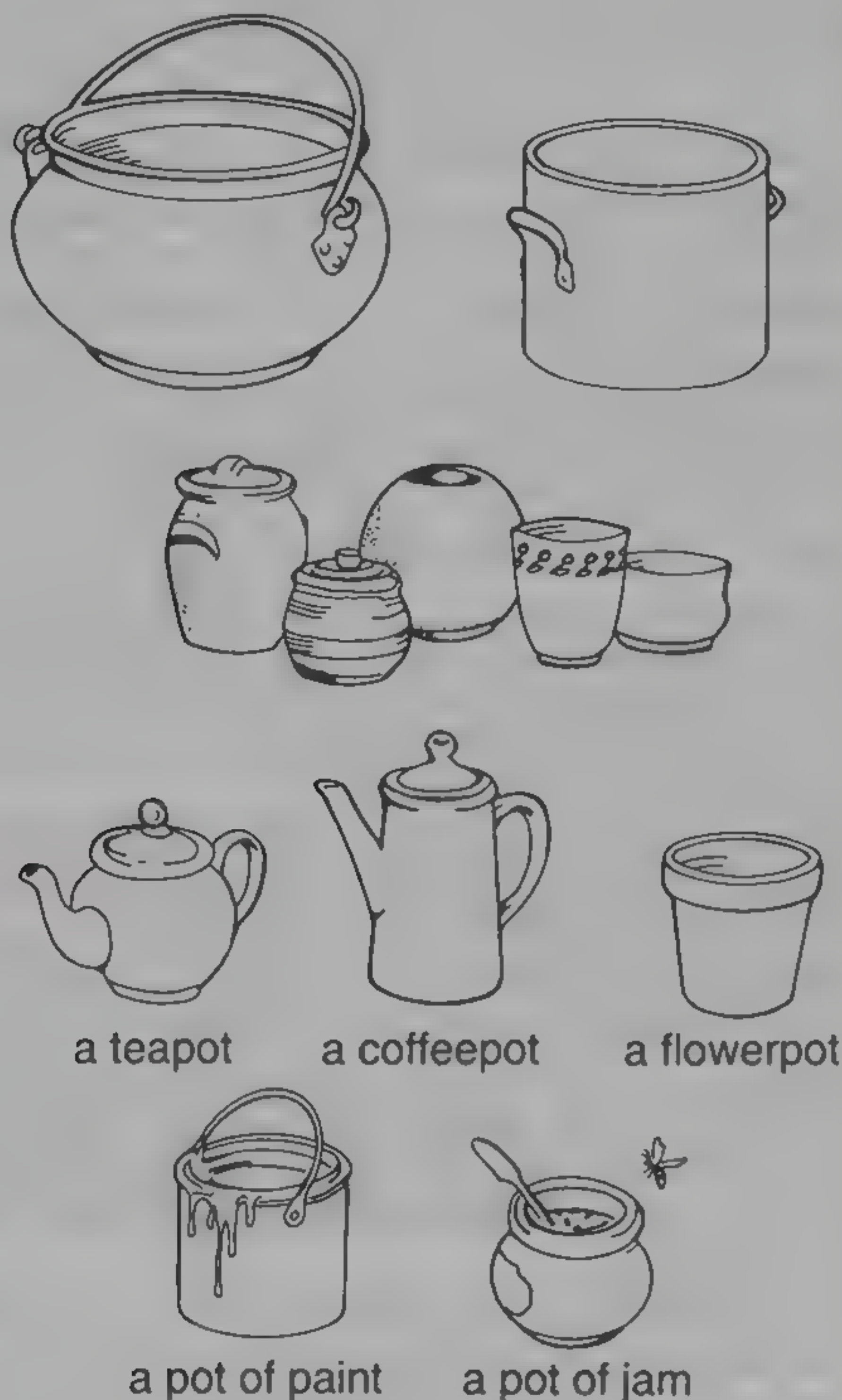
post-vi-ral syn-drome /ˌ..-'..-'..-/ *n* [U] see **ME**¹

post-war /ˌpəʊst'wɔː/ *adj, adv* (happening or existing)

after a war, esp. the First or Second World War — compare PREWAR

po-sy¹ /'pəʊzi/ *n* esp. *lit* a small bunch of flowers

posy² *adj infml* POSEY



a teapot

a coffeepot

a flowerpot

a pot of paint

a pot of jam

see also picture at **pan**

pots

pot¹ /pɒt||pɑ:t/ *n* 1 [C] a round container made of metal, baked clay, glass, etc., with or without a handle or cover, made to contain liquids or solids, esp. for cooking: *a pot of jam* | *a plant pot* | *a coffeepot* | *Will you help me wash up all these pots and pans?* (=cooking containers) 2 [C (of)] also **pot-ful** /-fʊl/— the amount that a pot will hold: *A pot of tea for two, please.* 3 [C] *infml* a dish, bowl, or other container made by hand out of clay: *learning to make/throw pots* —see also POTTER, POTTERY 4 [C] a POTTY² 5 [C (of)] also **pots pl.**— *infml* a large amount (of money): *They're very rich; they've got pots of money.* 6 [(the) S] all the money risked on one card game, esp. POKER, and taken by the winner 7 [C] *BrE* a hit which sends the ball into any of the six small bags at the edge of the table in BILLIARDS or SNOOKER 8 [U] *sl* for MARIJUANA 9 [C] *usu. derog or humor* POTBELLY 10 [C (at)] *infml* a POTSHOT 11 *go to pot infml* to become ruined or worthless, esp. from lack of care 12 *the pot calling the kettle black infml* a person who is criticizing another person for faults that they also have themselves

pot² *v* -tt- 1 [I (at); T] to shoot and (try to) kill, esp. for food or sport: *potting (at) rabbits in the field* 2 [T (UP)] to put (a young plant) in a pot filled with earth —see also POTTED 3 [T] *BrE* to hit (a ball) into any of the six bags at the edge of a billiard table (BILLIARDS)

po-ta-ble /'pəʊtəbəl/ *adj fml or humor* (of a liquid, esp. water) suitable for drinking; drinkable

pot-ash /'pɒtæʃ||'pɑ:-/ *n* [U] a sort of potassium used esp. in farming to make the soil produce better crops, and in making soap, strong glass, and various chemical compounds

po-tas-si-um /pə'tæsiəm/ *n* [U] a silver-white soft easily melted metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT). It is found in nature in large quantities, but only in combination with other substances, such as in plants and rocks, and is necessary to the existence of all living things.

po-ta-tion /pəʊ'teɪʃən/ *n* rare *pomp or humor* 1 [*usu. pl.*] an act of drinking a lot, esp. of alcoholic drink 2 an (alcoholic) drink

po-ta-to /pə'teɪtəʊ/ *n* -toes 1 [C; U] a roundish root vegetable with a thin brown or yellowish skin, that is cooked

and served in many different ways: *Would you like some more roast potatoes/mashed potato?* —see also CHIP¹ 2 [C] a plant which has potatoes growing on its roots: *a field of potatoes* —see also HOT POTATO, SWEET POTATO, and see picture at VEGETABLE

potato bee-tle /-'lɒ... ,.../ *n* a COLORADO BEETLE

potato chip /-'lɒ... -/ *n* 1 *BrE* for CHIP¹ (3) 2 also **chip**— *AmE Austr E* for CRISP¹

potato crisp /-'lɒ... 'l-/ *n* a CRISP¹

Potato Fam-ine /-'lɒ... ,.../ [*the*] the failure of the potato crop in Ireland in 1845, which led to the deaths of many Irish people, and the movement of others to England and the US

potato pee-ler /-'lɒ... ,.../ *n* a special piece of equipment, usu. similar to a knife, used for removing the skin of potatoes

pot-bel-ly /'pɒt, belɪ||'pɑ:t-/ also **pot**— *n* *usu. derog or humor* a large rounded noticeable stomach. In Britain and the US, a potbelly is not considered to be attractive. —*lied adj*

pot-boil-er /'pɒt, bɔɪləɹ||'pɑ:t-/ *n* *derog* a book, article, painting, etc. of low quality produced quickly in order to get money

pot-bound /'pɒtbaʊnd||'pɑ:t-/ *usu. rootbound AmE*— *adj* (of a plant growing in a pot) having roots that have grown to fill the pot, and therefore are unable to grow any further

po-teen, **po-theen** /pə'tʃi:n, -'ti:n/ *n* [U] Irish WHISKEY made secretly and illegally to avoid paying government tax

po-ten-cy /'pəʊtənsɪ/ *n* [U] 1 the quality of being potent; power: *Alcohol increases the drug's potency.* 2 the ability of a man to have sex —see also IMPOTENCE

po-tent /'pəʊtənt/ *adj* 1 (of a medicine, drug, drink, etc.) having a strong and/or quick effect on the body or mind 2 *fml* (of arguments, reasoning, etc.) very effective; causing one to agree; CONVINCING 3 *lit or fml* having great power: *a potent new weapons system* —see also IMPOTENT —*~ly adv*

po-ten-tate /'peʊtəntet/ *n* someone with very great or unlimited power, esp., in former times, a ruler with direct power over his or her people, not limited by a law-making body: *the despotic rule of Eastern potentates*

po-ten-tial¹ /pə'tenʃəl/ *adj* [*no comp.*] that may happen or become so, although not actually existing at present: *a potential danger* | *weighing up the potential benefits and disadvantages of investing in new industries* —*~ly adv*: *She's potentially our best tennis player, but she needs to practise much harder.*

potential² *n* [S; U] 1 [(for)] (the degree of) possibility for developing or being favourably developed: *This new invention has (an) enormous sales potential.* (=could be sold in very large quantities) | *a young player with great potential* | *the potential for expansion* 2 the degree of electricity or electrical force, usu. measured in VOLTS

po-ten-ti-al-i-ty /pə'tenʃi'ælɪti/ *n* [(for)] 1 [C *usu. pl.*] *fml* a hidden unused power of mind or character: *potentialities for either good or evil* 2 [U] POTENTIAL² (1)

pot-ful /'pɒtful||'pɑ:t-/ *n* a POT¹ (2)

pot-head /'pɒthed||'pɒ:t-/ *n* *AmE sl derog* a person who smokes MARIJUANA

po-theen /pə'tʃi:n, -'ti:n/ *n* [U] POTEEN

pot-hold-er /'pɒthəʊldəɹ||'pɑ:t-/ *n* *AmE* a piece of padded (PAD²) material used to hold hot cooking pans

pot-hole /'pɒthəʊl||'pɑ:t-/ *n* 1 a large hole which goes deep underground in rocky country 2 a hole in the surface of a road which makes driving, etc. difficult or dangerous

pot-hol-ing /'pɒt, həʊlɪŋ||'pɑ:t-/ *n* [U] the sport of climbing down inside POTHOLES (1) —*er n*

pot-hun-ter /'pɒt, hʌntəɹ||'pɑ:t-/ *n* *BrE infml derog* a person who competes in races or competitions only in order to win prizes

po-tion /'pəʊʃən/ *n* esp. *lit* a liquid mixture intended as a medicine, poison, or magic charm: *a potion supposed to cure baldness*

pot-luck¹ /,pɒt'lʌk-||,pɑ:t-/ *n* take **potluck**: a to choose without enough information; take a chance: *I don't know anything about any of these films, so let's just go to the nearest cinema and take potluck.* b (esp. of an unexpected

guest) to have whatever meal has been prepared : *Come home with us and have supper, if you don't mind taking potluck.*

potluck² *adj* *AmE* with dishes of food brought by many different people: *a potluck supper* | *Will you bring a salad to the potluck lunch next Sunday?*

Pot Noo-dle /'pɒtˌnoʊdl/ *n* *tdmk* a type of SNACK meal made by Golden Wonder and consisting of dried PASTA, meat and vegetables; it is mixed with hot water to make it ready to eat

Po-to-mac /pə'təʊmæk/ [*the*] a river in the E of the US which separates Maryland and Washington DC from Virginia and West Virginia

pot plant /'pɒtˌplɑːnt/ *n* **1** *BrE* || **potted plant** /'pɒtɪdˌplɑːnt/ *AmE*— a usu. decorative plant grown in a pot indoors **2** *AmE infml* a MARIJUANA plant

pot-pour-ri /pəʊ'pʊəri||-pʊ'ri/ *n* **1** a mixture of dried pieces of sweet-smelling flowers and leaves, kept in a bowl to give a pleasant smell to a room **2** [(of)] a mixed collection, esp. of pieces of music or writing of a popular sort; MISCELLANY

pot roast /'pɒtˌrəʊst/ *n* a piece of meat, usu. BEEF, cooked in a pan on top of the cooker, usu. with potatoes and vegetables

Pots-dam A-gree-ment /'pɒtsdæm ə'griːmənt || 'pɒts-/ [*the*] an agreement by the countries that won the Second World War (the US, Britain, the USSR, and France) to divide control of Germany between them

pot-sherd /'pɒtˌʃɜːd||'pɒtˌʃɜːrd/ *n* *tech* (in ARCHAEOLOGY) a piece of a broken pot

pot-shot /'pɒtˌʃɒt||'pɒtˌʃɔːt/ also **pot**— *n* [(at)] *infml* a carelessly aimed shot: *I took a potshot at the rabbit.*

pot-ted /'pɒtɪd||'pɑː-/ *adj* [A] **1** (of meat, fish, or chicken) made into a PASTE to be eaten esp. spread on bread **2** (of a plant) grown in a pot: *potted palms* **3** *esp. BrE, sometimes derog* (of a book) produced in a shorter simpler form: *a potted history of the world*

pot-ter¹ /'pɒtər||'pɑː-/ *n* a person who makes pots, dishes, etc., out of baked clay, esp. by hand —see also POTTERY

potter² *BrE* || **putter** *AmE*— *v* [I+adv/prep] *infml* **1** to go in an unhurried way: *I was just pottering along in my little car when two motorbikes roared past.* **2** to spend time moving about a place slowly doing unimportant activities that need little effort: *Granny just potters about the house.* | *pottering in the garden* —**potter** *n* [S]

Potter¹, **Bea-trix** /'bɪətrɪks||'bɪər-/ (1866–1943) an English writer who wrote animal stories for young children and also drew the pictures for her books. Her books include *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and *The Tailor of Gloucester* and are still very popular with British children and their parents

Potter², **Den-nis** /'denɪs/ (1935–) an English writer of plays, best-known for his television SERIES *Pennies from Heaven* and *The Singing Detective*

Pot-ter-ies /'pɒtərɪz||'pɑː-/ [*the*] a part of Staffordshire in the midlands of England which is a centre for the CHINA and pottery industry

potter's field /'pɒtərˌfiːld/ *n* (formerly) a place where poor people were buried

potter's wheel /'pɒtərˌwiːl/ *n* a round flat spinning plate on which wet clay is placed to be shaped into a pot

pot-ter-y /'pɒtəri||'pɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the work of a potter **2** (pots and other objects made out of) baked clay: *a collection of medieval pottery* | *a pottery dish* | *a pottery class*

potting com-post /'pɒtɪŋˌkɒmpɒst/ *n* [U] a mixture of earth, sand, decayed plant material, and plant foods which is put into pots in which plants are grown

pot-ting shed /'pɒtɪŋˌʃed/ *n* *esp. BrE* a small building for the use of a gardener, in which garden tools, seeds, etc. are kept

pot-ty¹ /'pɒti||'pɑːti/ *adj* *BrE infml* **1** silly; slightly mad: *What a potty idea!* | *That noise is driving me potty.* **2** [F+about] having an extremely strong, or too strong interest in or admiration for: *He's potty about the girl next door/about sailing.* —**tininess** *n* [U]

potty² also **pot**— *n* **1** a CHAMBER POT for children, now usu. made of plastic —compare BEDPAN **2** *AmE* (used by or to children) the toilet: *Have you been to the potty?*

potty-trained /'pɒtiˌtreɪnd/ also **toilet-trained**— *adj* (of a child) trained to use a potty or TOILET —**potty-training** *n* [U]

pouch /paʊtʃ/ *n* **1** a small leather bag used for holding esp. tobacco or, in former times, explosive powder, money, etc. **2** a pocket of skin in the lower half of the body, in which MARSUPIAL animals carry their young —see picture at KANGAROO **3** a baglike fold of skin inside each cheek, in which certain animals carry and store food

pouf /puːf/ *n* **1** also **pouffe** /puːf/ *BrE* || **hassock** *AmE*— a soft drum-shaped object used as a seat or for resting the feet on —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** *BrE derog sl* for a male HOMOSEXUAL. This word is used only by people who do not approve of homosexual men. —see HOMOSEXUAL

poul-ter-er /'pəʊltərə/ *n* *old-fash* a person who sells poultry

poul-tice /'pəʊltɪs/ *n* a heated wet mass of a soft substance, spread on a thin cloth and laid against the skin to lessen pain, swelling, etc.: *a mustard poultice*

poul-try /'pəʊltri/ *n* [P;U] (meat from) farmyard birds such as hens, ducks, etc., kept for supplying eggs and meat: *Poultry is cheaper than meat* (=meat from cattle, pigs, etc.) *at the moment.*

pounce¹ /paʊns/ *v* [I (on)] to jump suddenly in order to take hold of something firmly, esp. so as to kill and eat it: *The cat pounced on the unsuspecting mouse.* | (fig.) *Policemen were hiding in the bank, ready to pounce on the thieves.*

pounce on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to accept eagerly: *He pounced on my offer.* **2** to notice at once and make a sharp remark about: *If you make a single mistake, Vernon will pounce on it/you and say you're a fool.*

pounce² *n* [*usu. sing.*] an attack made by pouncing

pound¹ /paʊnd/ *n* **1** [C] (*written abbrev. lb*) a unit of weight equal to 0.454 kilograms: *This weighs seven pounds.* (=7 lbs) | *Two pounds of apples, please.* | *Sugar is still sold by the pound here.* —see TABLE 2 **2** [C] a also **pound sterling** *fml* or *tech*— the standard unit of money in Britain, divided into 100 pence. The pound used to be in the form of paper money called a pound note, but in 1985 this was replaced by a coin (called a pound coin): *Five pounds can also be written £5.* | *The floods caused damage estimated at over a million pounds.* **b** the standard unit of money in various other countries, such as Egypt and the Sudan **3** [*the*] the value of British money in relation to the money of other countries: *The pound has fallen again (against the dollar).* **4** -**pounder**: a something, esp. a fish, that weighs the stated number of pounds: *I caught a five-pounder.* **b** a large gun that fires a shot weighing the stated number of pounds: *a 32-pounder* **5** **one's pound of flesh** the exact amount that one owes esp. when its payment will cause great pain or trouble to the person who owes it

pound² *v* **1** [T (UP)] to crush into a soft mass or powder by hitting repeatedly with a heavy object: *Pound the tomatoes into a paste.* **2** [I;T] to beat or hit repeatedly, heavily, and noisily: *My heart pounded (with excitement).* | *He pounded the table angrily.* | (fig.) *Our guns pounded away at the enemy positions.* (=kept firing heavily at them) **3** [I+adv/prep] to move with heavy quick steps that make a dull sound: *The runaway cattle pounded down the hill.*

pound³ *n* a place where lost dogs and cats, or cars that have been illegally parked, are kept by the police until claimed by the owner —see also IMPOUND

Pound, **Ez-ra** /'ezrə/ (1885–1972) an American poet who lived mostly in Europe and whose poems include the *Cantos*. He supported FASCISM during the Second World War and after the war he was accused (ACCUSE) of TREASON and sent to an American mental hospital.

pound-age /'paʊndɪdʒ/ *n* [U (on)] *tech* an amount charged for every pound in weight, or for every British £1 in value

pound cake /'pɒndˌkeɪk/ *n* *AmE* a heavy cake made from almost equal parts of flour, sugar, and butter

pound-ing /'paʊndɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act or sound of someone or something that POUNDS²: *the pounding of my heart* **2** [C] *infml* a severe defeat: *Our football team took a real pounding from Brazil.*

pour /pɔː/ *v* **1** [T+obj+adv/prep] to cause (something) to flow (out of or into a container): *Pour some wine into my glass.* | *Pour away the dirty water.* | *The chimney was pouring out black smoke.* | (fig.) *The government has been pouring money into the steel industry.* (=supporting it with large amounts of money) [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Can I pour*

you (out) another cup of tea? **2** [I+adv/prep] to flow steadily and rapidly: *Blood poured from the wound.* | *Smoke was pouring from the window.* | (fig.) *At five o'clock workers poured out of the factories.* **3** [I] *infml* to fill cups of tea, coffee, etc., and serve them to others: *Shall I pour or will you?* **4** [I+adv] (of a container) to be suitable for pouring: *This teapot doesn't pour very well.* **5** [I (DOWN)] (of rain) to fall hard and steadily: *The rain is really pouring down.* | *She spoilt her new shoes in the pouring rain.* [it+I] *It's pouring down/pouring with rain.* —see RAIN (USAGE) **6** **pour cold water over/on** *infml* to speak discouragingly about; dismiss as not being sensible: *Don't pour cold water on the scheme: it has some good points.* **7** **pour oil on troubled waters** to try to stop trouble, a quarrel, etc. by making the people who are causing it calmer **8** **pour scorn on** to speak with unkind disrespect about

pour sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (to)] to tell (a story, news, one's troubles, etc.) in an uncontrolled way so that the words rush out, esp. after keeping them unexpressed for a long time: *She poured out her worries to the doctor.*

Pous-sin /'pu:zæn||pu:z'sa:n/, **Nic-o-las** /'nikələs/ (1594–1665) a French painter known esp. for his LANDSCAPE paintings

pout¹ /paʊt/ *v* [I;T] to push (the lips or the lower lip) forward, esp. to show displeasure or to attract sexual interest: *The spoilt child sat there pouting.* | *The film star pouted provocatively.*

pout² *n* an act of pouting: *a sullen/sensual pout*

po-er-ty /'pɒvəti||'pa:vəti/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being poor: *They live in abject poverty/below the poverty line.* (=their income is less than is needed to buy enough food, pay for a proper place to live, etc.) **2** [S;U (of)] *fml derog* (a) lack: *His later stories show (a) surprising poverty of imagination.* —compare POORNES

poverty line /'... ,-/ [the] a level of income under which a person or family is considered to be very poor and able to receive government help. In the US the poverty line in the late 1980s was set at about \$12,000 a year for a family of four, and the amount is changed each year because of INFLATION.

poverty-strick-en /'... ,-/ *adj* extremely poor

poverty trap /'... ,-/ *n* a situation in which the amount of money earned by a poor person or family increases slightly so that they are no longer allowed to receive special government payments and as a result they have even less money than before

pow /paʊ/ *interj* a word used in children's COMICS (=magazines of picture stories) to show that somebody has hit another person hard

POW /,pi: əʊ 'dʌbəlju:z/ *n* a PRISONER OF WAR: *a POW camp*

pow-der¹ /'paʊdə/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) dry substance in the form of extremely small grains: *On examination, the white powder turned out to be heroin.* | *milk powder* **2** [U] a pleasant-smelling often flesh-coloured substance in this form, for use on the skin: *baby powder* | *face powder* —see also TALCUM POWDER **3** [C] *old use* a medicine in the form of powder: *a stomach powder* **4** [U] GUNPOWDER **5** **take a powder** *AmE sl* to be hurt and usu. to fall down in a fight: *He took a powder in the third round.*

powder² *v* **1** [T] to put powder on: *She powdered the baby after its bath.* **2** **powder one's nose** *euph* (of a woman) to go to the TOILET

pow-dered /'paʊdəd||-ərd/ *adj* **1** produced or dried in the form of powder: *powdered egg* **2** covered with powder: *powdered hair*

powdered milk /'... ,-/ also **dried milk**— *n* [U] milk which has been dried for easy keeping —see also BABY MILK

powder keg /'... ,-/ *n* something dangerous that might explode: (fig.) *That country is a political powder keg; revolution could break out at any time.*

powder puff /'... ,-/ *n* a small thick piece or ball of soft material for spreading POWDER on the face or body

powder room /'... ,-/ *n euph* a women's public TOILET in a theatre, hotel, restaurant, big shop, etc.

pow-der-y /'paʊdəri/ *adj* **1** like or easily broken into powder: *powdery snow* **2** covered with powder

Pow-ell /'pəʊəl/, **An-tho-ny** /'æntəni/ (1905–) a 20th century English writer who wrote *A Dance to the Music of Time*

Powell /'pəʊəl/, **E-noch** /'i:nɒk||-nɑ:k/ (1912–) an English politician who is famous for opposing IMMIGRATION, esp. in the 1960s, and for being against Britain joining the Common Market. In 1968 he made a famous speech, now referred to as the “Rivers of Blood” speech, in which he said that if Britain allowed too many black people to come and live in this country, there would be fighting and “rivers of blood” in the streets. Many people think that he is a RACIST because of this.

pow-er¹ /'paʊə/ *n* **1** [S;U (over)] control over others; influence: *The power of governments has increased greatly over the past century.* | *The chairman was forced to resign following a boardroom power struggle.* | *a religious cult which seems to exercise a strange power over the people who join it* | *Now I've got him in my power, I can make him do anything I want.* **2** [U] governmental control: *Which party is in power (=is the government) now?* | *The Progressive Party was returned to power, with an increased majority in the election.* | *The rebels have seized power.* **3** [C;U] (a) right to act, given by law, rule, or official position: [+to-v] *Only certain directors in the company have the power to sign company cheques.* | *The police and the army have been given special powers to deal with the situation.* **4** [(the) U (of)] also **powers pl.**— what one can do; (natural) ability: *Humans are the only animals with the power of speech.* [+to-v] *She claims to have the power to see into the future.* | *He did everything in his power (=did all he could) to comfort her.* | *I'm afraid it's not (with)in my power to help you.* | *She's nearly 80 and very ill, and her powers are failing.* (=she no longer has all her natural abilities) | *When he wrote that book, he was at the height of his powers as a writer.* **5** [U] ability to have physical effect; force; strength: *So enormous was the hurricane's power that it carried away whole buildings.* | (fig.) *We plan to increase our air power.* (=get more military aircraft) | (fig.) *Japan's industrial power* **6** [U] force that can be used for doing work, driving a machine, or producing electricity: *nuclear power* | *The engine is being specially adapted to increase its power.* | “*This drill isn't working.*” “*You haven't turned on the power.*” (=electricity) —see also HORSEPOWER, MANPOWER **7** [U] a measure of the degree to which a microscope, TELESCOPE, etc. is able to make things seen through it look larger **8** [C] (sometimes *cap.*) a person, group, nation, spirit, etc., that has influence or control: *People say that Britain is no longer a world power.* | *He was only an ordinary MP when I first knew him, but these days he's quite a power in the land.* (=someone with a lot of power and influence) | *the powers of darkness* (=the forces of the devil) —see also SUPERPOWER **9** [C] (in MATHEMATICS) the number of times that an amount is to be multiplied by itself: *The amount 2 to the power of 3 is written 2³, and means 2×2×2.* **10** [S+of] *infml* a large amount; lot: *Your visit while I was ill did me a power of good.* **11** **more power to someone's elbow!** *infml*, esp. *BrE* good luck to someone! may someone's efforts succeed!: *She's trying to get the boss to arrange a firm's party? Well, more power to her elbow!* **12** **power behind the throne** someone who, though having no official position, has great private influence over a ruler or leader **13** **power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely** *quote* a phrase used by the English HISTORIAN Lord Acton **14** **the power and the glory** a phrase from the LORD'S PRAYER **15** **the powers that 'be** *infml*, often *humor* the unknown people in important official positions who make decisions that have an effect on one's life **16** **power trip** *AmE derog* an eagerness to use the power one has been given: *Ever since he got that promotion he's been on a real power trip.* **17** **-powered** /paʊəd||-ərd/ using, producing, or having the stated type or amount of POWER (6,7): *a low-powered engine* | *a high-powered telescope* —see also BALANCE OF POWER, BLACK POWER, HIGH-POWERED, PURCHASING POWER, STAYING POWER

power² *v* **1** [T *usu. pass.*] to supply power to (esp. a vehicle): *The aircraft is powered by three jet engines.* **2** [I + adv/prep] *infml* to move powerfully and fast: *The racing car powered down the home straight.*

power³ *adj* [A] driven by a motor: *a power saw/mower*
power base /'... ,-/ *n* an area, group, etc. that provides someone with a means of having influence: *For the first time we have a president whose political power base is in the west of the country.*

pow-er-boat /'paʊəbəʊt||'paʊər-/ *n* a powerful MOTORBOAT, esp. one for racing

power broker /'.., .. / *n* someone who controls the degree to which others have political influence, esp. in affairs between nations

power cut /'.. / also **power failure**— *n* a failure of the electricity supply: *We got the gas stove because we were always getting power cuts.*

power dive /'.. / *n* a steep downward movement of an aircraft with the engines working

power dressing /'.., .. / *n* [U] a way of dressing used esp. in the 1980s by women to show that they are as able as men to have positions of power in society

power failure /'.., .. / *n* [C;U] power cut

powerful /'paʊəfəl||'paʊər- / *adj* 1 able to produce great physical force: *powerful muscles* | *a powerful engine* | *a powerful swimmer* (=who can swim fast and/or a long way) 2 great in degree or effect: *a powerful electric current*. | *a powerful telescope* | *powerful drugs* | *Onions have a powerful smell*. | *a powerful imagination* 3 having much control and influence: *Powerful nations sometimes try to control weaker ones*. | *a powerful position in the government* — *~ly adv*: *He's very powerfully built.* (=has a big strong body)

Power-Gen /'paʊədʒen||-ər- / one of the two main companies, which produce electricity in Britain — see also NATIONAL POWER

power-house /'paʊəhaus||-ər- / *n* -houses /,haʊzɪz/ *infml*, *usu. apprec* 1 a very strong person 2 [(of)] a person or place that acts, thinks, or produces things with great forcefulness: *an intellectual powerhouse* | *the idea of a university as a powerhouse of ideas*

powerless /'paʊələs||'paʊər- / *adj* lacking power, strength, or ability: [F+to-v] *I was powerless to* (=could not) *prevent the accident*. — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

power line /'.. / *n* a large wire carrying electricity over land or underground from where the electricity is produced to where it is used

power of attorney /, .. . ' / *n* [C;U] *law* (a signed official paper giving) the right to act for someone else in business or law

power plant /'.. / *n* 1 an engine and other parts which supply power to a factory, an aircraft, a car, etc. 2 *esp. AmE* a POWER STATION

power point /'.. / also **point, socket BrE** || **electric socket AmE**— *n esp. BrE* a piece of plastic or other material with holes in it, in Britain *usu.* three square holes, in the US *usu.* two, which is fixed into a wall and to which electrical equipment can be connected for the electricity supply

power politics /'.., .. / *n* [U] *often derog* (in international politics) the use or threat of armed force instead of peaceful argument

power sharing /'.., .. / the sharing of political power by different groups in a society, esp. a political arrangement in Northern Ireland in 1973 in which Catholics and Protestants shared in government. The arrangement did not end the troubles there, and ended in 1976.

power shower /'.., .. / *n* a SHOWER¹ (3b) which has a very forceful flow of water

power station /'.., .. / || also **power plant esp. AmE**— *n* a large building in which electricity is made

power steering /'.., .. / *n* [U] (in a vehicle) a system for steering (STEER²) which uses power from the vehicle's engine and therefore needs less effort from the driver

power worker /'.., .. / *n* a worker in the electricity-producing industry

pow-wow /'paʊ,wau/ *n* 1 a meeting or council of Native Americans 2 *humor* a meeting or discussion

Pow-ys /'paʊɪs/ a COUNTY in central Wales

pox /pɒks||pɑ:ks/ *n* 1 [the+S] *infml* the disease SYPHILIS 2 [U] *old use* the disease SMALLPOX 3 *a pox on old use* (used for expressing complete disrespect for someone or something worthless): *A pox on our enemies!* — see also CHICKEN POX, COWPOX

pp *abbrev. for*: 1 pages: see pp 15–37 — see also P² 2 (written before the name of another person, when one is signing a letter for them)

PPS /,pi: pi: 'es/ *n* 1 (in Britain) Parliamentary Private Secretary; a member of parliament who is appointed to help a minister 2 also **p.p.s.**— *abbrev. for*: post postscriptum; a note added after a P.S. in a letter or message

PR /,pi: 'ɑ: / *n* [U] 1 PUBLIC RELATIONS: *an expert in PR* 2 PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

PR² *written abbrev. for*: PUERTO RICO

practicable /'præktɪkəbəl/ *adj* that can be successfully done or used, though not yet tried: *Is it practicable to try to develop agriculture in desert regions?* — opposite **impracticable** — *bly adv* — *bility* /,præktɪkə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

▷ USAGE People are beginning to use **practical** with the same meaning as **practicable**; a **practical/practicable** plan or suggestion is one that will work. **Practicable** is not used of people.◁

practical /'præktɪkəl/ *adj* 1 concerned with action, practice, or actual conditions and results, rather than with ideas: *They've agreed to store the furniture; but we still have the practical problem of how to transport it over there*. | *She lacks practical experience*. 2 *apprec* effective or convenient in actual use; suited to actual conditions: *a practical uniform which is comfortable and doesn't show the dirt* 3 *usu. apprec* sensible; clever at doing things and dealing with difficulties: *Be practical — we can't afford both a car and a holiday*. | *She's a very practical person*. 4 **practicable** 5 **for all practical purposes** actually; in reality: *He does so little work in the office that for all practical purposes it would make no difference if he didn't come*. — opposite **impractical** (for 2,3); see also PRACTICALLY; see PRACTICABLE (USAGE) — *~ity* /,præktɪ'kælɪti/ *n* [C;U]: *I'm not sure about the practicality of that suggestion*. | *Please stick to practicalities*.

practical² *n infml* a PRACTICAL lesson, test, or examination, esp. in science: *a chemistry practical*

practical joke /, ... ' / *n* a trick played on someone to amuse others: *She glued the teacher's book to the desk as a practical joke*. — compare PRANK, TRICK¹ (3)

practically /'præktɪkli/ *adv* 1 in a practical way 2 very nearly; almost: *The holidays are practically over; there's only one day left*.

▷ USAGE Practically can be used in the same way as **almost**, but is less common. It cannot be used in exactly the same way as **nearly**. — see also ALMOST (USAGE)◁

practice /'præktɪs/ *n* 1 [C;U] (a) regular or repeated performance or exercise in order to learn to do something well: *You need to 'get some more practice at reversing round corners before you take your driving test*. | *He's gone to football practice*. | *We have three choir practices a week*. | *The student teachers are now doing their teaching practice*. | *I haven't played tennis for years, so I'm really out of practice*. (=I lack the practice needed to play well) | *He took a couple of practice swings with his club before playing the shot*. 2 [U] the actual doing of something (rather than the idea of it): *It sounded like a good idea, but in practice it didn't work*. | *We've made our plans, and now we must put them into practice*. (=actually carry them out) — compare THEORY (2) 3 [C] the business of a doctor or lawyer: *He has a large practice* (=many people to look after) *in London*. — see also GROUP PRACTICE, PRIVATE PRACTICE 4 [C;U] a repeated, habitual, or standard act or course of action: *unfair business practices* | *religious practices* | *I'll lend you the money this time, but I don't intend to make a practice of it*. (=lend you money regularly) | *It is the practice in English law to consider someone innocent until they have been proved guilty*. (=that is what is done in English law) | *It is now quite common practice for married women not to take their husband's second name*. — see also SHARP PRACTICE; see HABIT (USAGE) 5 **practice makes perfect saying** if you do something repeatedly, you will learn to do it perfectly

practise BrE || **-tice AmE** /'præktɪs/ *v* 1 [I;T] to do (an action) or perform on (esp. a musical instrument) regularly or repeatedly in order to gain skill: *You'll never learn to ride a bike if you don't practise*. | *She's been practising the same tune on the piano for nearly an hour*. | *You mustn't practise the drums while the baby is sleeping*. [+v-ing] *You need to practise parking the car in a small space*. 2 [I (as);T] to do (the work of a doctor, lawyer, etc.): *She's passed her law examinations and is now practising (as a lawyer)*. | *a practising doctor* 3 [T] to act in accordance with (the ideas of one's religion): *a practising Jew* 4 [T] *fml* to make continuous use of (a course of action): *Our income has decreased and now we must practise economy*. (=must avoid spending money) 5 [T] *fml* to do; perform:

to practise magic **6** practise what one preaches to do oneself what one advises others to do

prac-tised *BrE* || **-tice** *AmE* /'præktɪst/ *adj* **1** [(in)] (of a person) skilled through practice: *a practised liar* | *thoroughly practised in the skills of politics* | *practised at avoiding difficult questions* **2** [A] *apprec* gained by practice: *The dancer moved with practised grace.* **3** *usu. derog* used so often that it is no longer natural: *The hotel manager welcomed the guests with a practised smile.*

prac-ti-tion-er /præk'tɪʃənə/ *n* **1** a person who works in a profession, esp. a doctor or lawyer: *medical practitioners* **2** *sometimes derog* a person who performs a skill or art: *practitioners of magic* —see also GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Pra-do /'prɑ:dəu/ [*the*] the national Spanish MUSEUM of painting and SCULPTURE which is in Madrid and has many very important works of art by painters such as El Greco, Goya, and Rubens

prae-sid-i-um /prɪ'sɪdiəm, -'zi-/ *n* **-iums** or **-ia** /-diə/ a PRESIDUM

prae-tor-i-an guard /prɪ,tɔ:riən 'gɑ:d||-'gɑ:rd/ *n* [*the*] **1** the soldiers who defended the life of the Roman EMPEROR. **2** a group of people who are supposed to defend a person in power against people who want to take power from them, but who are often more to do them interested in their own aims

prag-mat-ic /præg'mætɪk/ *adj* *usu. apprec* dealing with matters in the way that seems best under the actual conditions, rather than following a general principle; concerned with practical results — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

prag-mat-ics /præg'mætɪks/ *n* [U] *tech* (in the study of language) the study of the way words and phrases are used in conversation to express meanings, feelings, and ideas which are sometimes different from the actual meaning of the words used

prag-ma-tis-m /'prægmətɪzəm/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* pragmatic ways of considering and dealing with things — **-tist** *n*

Prague /prɑ:g/ the capital city of Czechoslovakia, a port and industrial centre with many beautiful buildings

Prague spring /, · ' / a short time in 1968 when the Communist government of Czechoslovakia, under Alexander Dubcek, allowed people to have more freedom than before. The Soviet Union did not agree with these changes and invaded (INVADE) Czechoslovakia and forced the government to return to the way things were before.

prai-rie /'preəri/ also **prairies** *pl.* — *n* a wide treeless grassy plain, esp. in N America

prairie dog /' · ' / *n* a small animal with a short tail which is found in the prairies in N America. Prairie dogs live in large groups under the ground, and are often seen standing on their back legs looking for danger.

prairie oy-ster /' · ' / *n* *infml* **1** a type of drink made with raw egg which is supposed to be a cure for a HANGOVER (1) **2** *AmE* also **Rocky Mountain oyster** — the TESTICLES of a CALF (=male young of a cow), eaten as food

prairie schoo-ner /, · ' / *n* *AmE infml* a small COVERED WAGON

praise¹ /preɪz/ *v* [T (for)] **1** to speak of with admiration and approval: *The doctor praised her for her courage.* **2** *fml or lit* to offer thanks and honour to (God), esp. by singing religious songs in a church service **3** **praise someone/something to the skies** to express very strong praise for someone or something

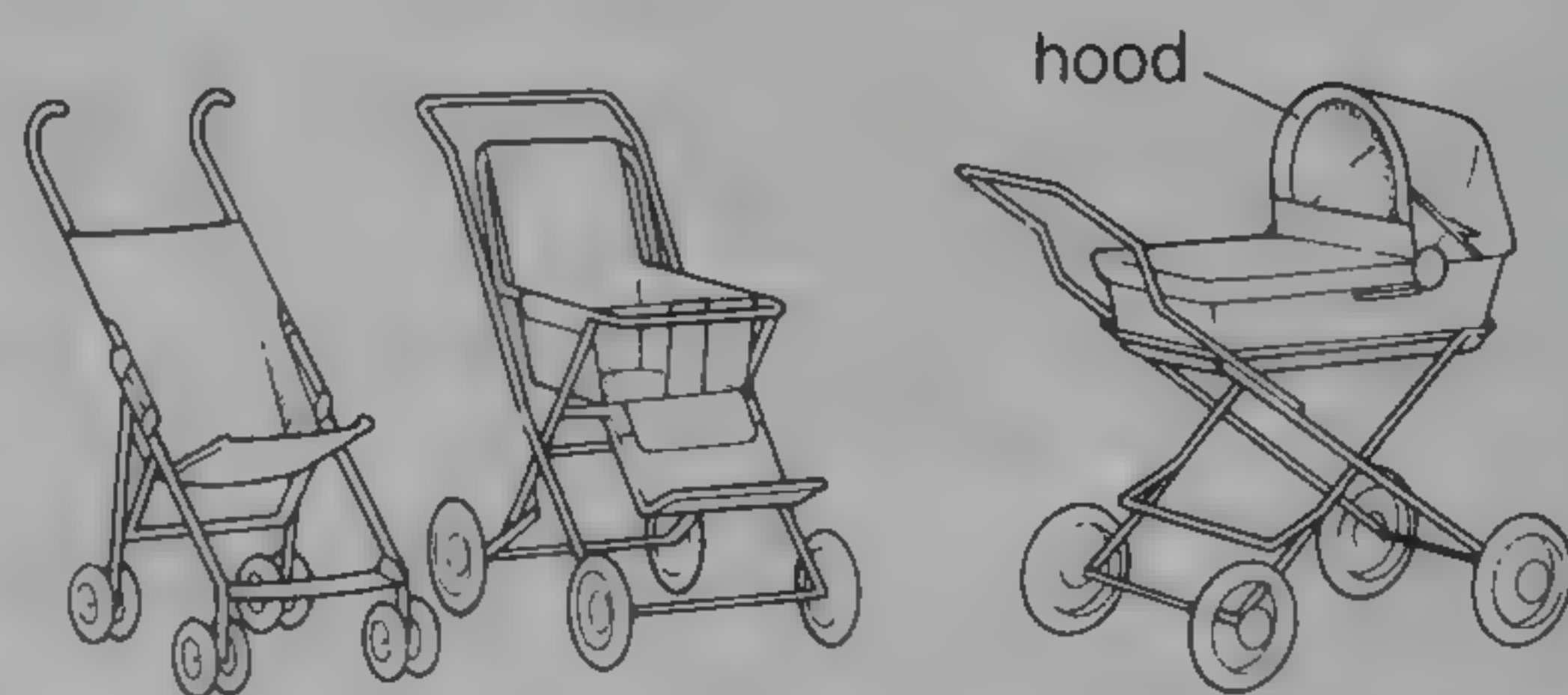
praise² *n* [U] **1** expression of admiration: *The new film received high praise from everyone.* | *All sides of the community joined together in praise of the police's prompt action.* **2** *fml or lit* worship: *Let us give praise to God.* **3** **praise be** *old-fash* thank God: *At last I've found you, praise be!* —see also **damn with faint praise** (DAMN')

prais-es /'preɪzɪz/ *n* [P (of)] words that praise someone or something: *Everyone's singing the praises of (=praising) his new film, but I didn't think much of it.*

praise-wor-thy /'preɪzwɜ:ði||-z:r-/ *adj* *apprec* deserving praise, esp. even though not successful; COMMENDABLE: *a praiseworthy attempt to simplify the complex laws in this area* — **thily** *adv* — **thiness** *n* [U]

pra-line /'prɑ:lɪn/ *n* a sweet made of nuts cooked in boiling sugar, used esp. as a filling for chocolates

pram /præm/ also **perambulator** *old-fash* or *fml*, esp.



pushchairs *BrE*/
strollers *AmE*

pram *BrE*/
baby buggy *AmE*

BrE || **baby buggy, baby carriage** *AmE* — *n* a four-wheeled carriage, pushed by hand, in which a baby can sleep or be taken about —compare PUSHCHAIR

prance /pra:ns||præns/ *v* [I+adv/prep] **1** (of an animal, esp. a horse) to jump high or move quickly by raising the front legs and springing forwards on the back legs **2** *sometimes derog* to move quickly, happily, or proudly with a springing or dancing step: *The children were prancing about with delight.* | *That cheeky new secretary just pranced up to me and asked if I worked here!*

prank /præŋk/ *n* a playful but foolish trick, not intended to harm: *Children like to play pranks on people.* | *a school-boy prank* —compare PRACTICAL JOKE

prank-ster /'præŋkstə/ *n* *infml* a person who plays pranks

prat /præt/ *n* *BrE derog sl* a worthless stupid person

prate /preɪt/ *v* [I (ON, about)] *old-fash derog* to talk foolishly

prat-fall /'prætfɔ:l/ *n* *AmE infml* a fall on one's BUTTOCKS, often on purpose to cause laughter: *The comedian slipped on a banana skin and did a pratfall.*

prat-tle¹ /'prætl/ *v* [I (ON, about)] *infml, often derog* to talk continually in a childish or foolish way about matters of no importance: *The children prattled on about their presents.* — **-tler** *n*

prattle² *n* [U] *infml, often derog* childish, unimportant, or meaningless talk

Prav-da /'prɑ:vdə/ a Russian newspaper, formerly the official newspaper of the Communist party of the USSR

prawn /prɔ:n/ *BrE* || **shrimp** *AmE* — *n* a small ten-legged sea animal used for food, like a SHRIMP, but larger

prawn cock-tail /, · ' / *n* a British dish served before the main course of a meal and consisting of prawns in MAYONNAISE on a bed of LETTUCE leaves

pray¹ /preɪ/ *v* **1** [I (for, to);T] to speak, often silently, to God or a god, privately or with others, to show love, give thanks, or ask for (something): *They went to the mosque to pray.* | *I will pray to God for your safety.* | *We pray God's forgiveness.* [+to-v] *Many times when he was in terrible pain he had prayed to be allowed to die.* [+ (that)] *They prayed that their enemies might be defeated.* | (fig.) *The school picnic is on Saturday, so we're praying (=hoping very strongly) for a fine day.* | (fig.) *I pray to God (=hope very strongly) nothing like that ever happens again.* **2** [T] *lit or old use* to ask or beg seriously and with strong feeling: *Take great care, I pray you!*

pray² *adv fml or lit* (used for giving force to a request) please: *Pray be seated!*

prayer /preə/ *n* **1** [C] (a fixed form of words used in making) a solemn request to God or a god: *a special prayer for Easter Sunday* | *He says his prayers every night before he goes to bed.* | *Her prayer was answered and her husband came home safely.* **2** [U] the act or regular habit of praying to God or a god: *The congregation knelt in prayer.* **3** [U] (often cap.) a fixed form of church service including prayers: *Evening Prayer* —see also PRAYERS

Prayer Book /' · ' / [*the*] the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

prayer meet-ing /' · ' / *n* (in Protestant churches) a public meeting at which people offer personal prayers to God

prayer rug /' · ' / also **prayer mat** — *n* a small mat knelt on by Muslims when they are praying

prayers /preəz||-ərz/ *n* [P] a daily religious service among a group of people, mainly consisting of praying: *school prayers* | *family prayers*

prayer wheel /' · ' / *n* a drum-shaped piece of wood or metal

that turns round on a pole, and on which prayers are written, used by Buddhists in Tibet

praying man-tis /ˌprɪɪː ˈmɑːntɪs/ also **mantis**— *n* a large insect that eats other insects and holds out its front legs pressed together —see picture at INSECT

pre- see WORD FORMATION

preach /ˈpriːtʃ/ *v* 1 [I (to); T] to speak or say (a religious speech) in public: *Christ preached to large crowds.* | *The priest preached a sermon on the need for charity.* [+that] *Christ preached that we should love each other.* 2 [T] often *derog* to advise or urge others to accept (something one believes in): *These misguided people go around preaching revolution.* 3 [I (at, to, about)] *derog* to offer unwanted advice on matters of right and wrong: *My sister has been preaching at me again about my untidy habits.* 4 **preach to the converted** to explain one's ideas or beliefs to people who already share them — *~er n*

Preak-ness /ˈpriːkneɪs/ [*the*] a race for three-year-old horses held in Maryland —see also TRIPLE CROWN

pre-am-ble /ˈpriːəmbəl/ || ˈpriːəmbəl/ *n tech or derog* 1 a statement at the beginning of a speech or piece of writing, giving its reason and purpose: *a preamble to the treaty* 2 *usu. cap, AmE* the statements at the beginning of the American CONSTITUTION

pre-ar-range /ˌpriːəˈreɪndʒ/ *v* [T] to arrange in advance: *At a prearranged signal, everyone stood up.* — *~ment n* [U]

preb-end /ˈprebænd/ *n tech* a small regular payment made to a priest of quite high rank for services connected with a CATHEDRAL or special church

preb-en-da-ry /ˈprebændəri/ || -deri/ *n* a priest who receives a prebend

pre-car-i-ous /ˈpriːkeəriəs/ *adj* unsafe; not firm or steady; full of danger: *The climber had only a precarious hold on the slippery rock.* | *Our financial situation is still precarious.* — *~ly adv*: *She had a cup of tea balanced precariously on her knee.* — *~ness n* [U]

pre-cast /ˌpriːˈkɑːst/ || -ˈkæst/ *adj* (of CONCRETE²) formed into blocks ready for use in building

pre-cau-tion /ˈpriːkəʊʃən/ *n* [(against)] an action done to avoid possible danger, discomfort, etc.: *Equipment is always carefully sterilized as a precaution against infection.* | *It would be a wise precaution to lock all the doors.* — *~ary adj*: *a precautionary X-ray*

pre-cede /ˈpriːsiːd/ *v* [T] 1 *fml* to come, go, or happen (just) before: *The flash of lightning preceded the sound of thunder by two seconds.* | *He came in, preceded by his wife.* 2 [+obj+adv/prep, esp. with] to introduce (an activity) in the stated way; PREFACE: *He preceded his speech with a few words of welcome to the special guests.* —compare PROCEED

pre-ce-dence /ˈpresɪdəns/ *n* [U (over)] the right to be put or dealt with before others, esp. because of greater importance: *The hospital building programme will have to have|take precedence over the road building programme.* | *In the dispute over custody of the child, the court decided to give precedence to the mother's claims.* | *Let's deal with the questions in order of precedence.* (=the important ones first) —compare PRIORITY

pre-ce-dent /ˈpresɪdənt/ *n* 1 [U] use of former customs or decisions as a guide to present actions: *The Queen has broken with precedent by sending her children to ordinary schools.* 2 [C] a former action or case that may be used as an example or rule for present or future action: *This intervention in another nation's affairs has set a precedent which we hope other countries will not follow.* | *This course of action is quite without precedent.* (=has never happened before) —see also UNPRECEDENTED

pre-ced-ing /ˈpriːsɪdɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *fml* coming just before in time or place: *the preceding day*

pre-cen-tor /ˈpriːsɪntər/ *n* (in some English CATHEDRALS) an official who deals with the musical arrangements for the religious services, and sometimes directs the trained singers

pre-cept /ˈpriːsept/ *n* a guiding rule on which behaviour, a way of thought or action, etc., is based: *Just follow these few basic precepts and you won't go far wrong in life.*

pre-cep-to-ri-al /ˈpriːsepˈtɔːriəl, ˈpriːsep-/ *n AmE* a lesson at a university or college which is a small discussion group and for which students *usu.* do independent reading or study

pre-ces-sion /ˈpriːseɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] 1 also **precession** of the

eq-ui-nox-es /ˌiːˈkwiːˈnɒks/ — a slow westward change in the slope at which the earth turns round daily, which causes the times of the year at which day and night are both exactly 12 hours long to be slightly earlier each year 2 *tech* a sideways or circular movement of the slope of a spinning object — *~al adj*

pre-cinct /ˈpriːsɪŋkt/ *n* 1 *BrE* a part of a town planned for or limited to the stated use: *a new shopping precinct* (=an area containing only shops) 2 *AmE* a division of a town or city for election or police purposes

pre-cincts /ˈpriːsɪŋkts/ *n* [P (of)] 1 the space, often enclosed by walls, that surrounds an important building or group of buildings: *It's quiet within the precincts of the old college.* 2 *rare* the area around a particular place; neighbourhood

pre-ci-os-i-ty /ˌpreɪˈsiːʊti/ || -ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml derog* unnatural perfection of detail, esp. in speech or pronunciation

pre-cious¹ /ˈpreɪʃəs/ *adj* 1 of great value, esp. because very expensive or much loved: *some of our country's most precious military secrets* | *He poured a few drops of the precious liquid into the glass.* | *That old toy is my most precious* (=dearly loved) *possession.* | *My time is precious; I can only give you a few minutes.* 2 *derog* (of manners, use of words, etc.) too concerned with perfection or unimportant details; unnaturally delicate 3 [A] *infml* (used for giving force to an expression of annoyance) worthless: *"Stop using that pen — it's mine!" "Take your precious pen, then!"* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

precious² *adv infml* very: *You'll get precious little sympathy from her.* | *There were precious few left.*

precious³ *n infml* becoming rare (used when speaking to someone you love): *Come here, (my) precious!*

precious met-al /ˌpriːʃəs ˈmetl/ *n* [C;U] a rare and valuable metal: *Gold and silver are precious metals.* —compare BASE METAL

precious stone /ˌpriːʃəs ˈstəʊn/ *n* a rare and valuable jewel: *Diamonds and emeralds are precious stones.* —compare SEMI-PRECIOUS

pre-ci-pice /ˈpresɪpɪs/ *n* a dangerously steep side of a high rock, mountain, or cliff: (fig.) *In 1939 everyone felt Europe was on the edge of the precipice.* (=in very great danger)

pre-cip-i-tate¹ /ˈprɪsɪpɪteɪt/ *v* 1 [T] *fml* to make (an unwanted event) happen sooner; HASTEN: *Fears about the solvency of the banks precipitated the great economic crash.* 2 [T+adv/prep, esp. into] *fml* a to throw forwards or downwards with great force: *The cart overturned and precipitated us into the ditch.* b to force suddenly into the stated condition or situation: *The border incident precipitated the two countries into war.* —compare PLUNGE¹ (1) 3 [I; T (OUT)] *tech* (in chemistry) to separate or cause (solid matter) to separate from a liquid by chemical action

pre-cip-i-tate² /ˈprɪsɪpɪteɪt/ *n* [C;U] *tech* (in chemistry) solid matter that has been separated from a liquid by chemical action —compare PRECIPITATION (4)

precipitate³ also **precipitous**— *adj fml* acting or done with too much hurry or without care or thought; IMPULSIVE: *They acted with precipitate haste.* | *She made a rather precipitate departure.* — *~ly adv*

pre-cip-i-ta-tion /ˈprɪsɪpɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] *fml or tech* the act of precipitating or state of being precipitated 2 [U] *tech* (the amount of) rain, snow, etc. which has fallen onto the ground: *There will be precipitation on northern hills tonight.* 3 [U] *fml derog* unwisely hurried action 4 [C;U] *tech* (in chemistry) matter that has precipitated (PRECIPITATE¹ (3)) naturally —compare PRECIPITATE²

pre-cip-i-tous /ˈprɪsɪpɪˈtəs/ *adj* 1 dangerously high or steep: *A precipitous path led down the cliff.* 2 PRECIPITATE³ — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

pré-cis¹ /ˈpreɪsɪː||preɪˈsiː/ *n* **précis** /ˈpreɪsɪz||preɪˈsiːz/ [(of)] a shortened form of a piece of writing or of what someone has said, giving only the main points

précis² *v* **précised** /ˈpreɪsɪːd||preɪˈsɪd/, *present participle* **précising** /ˈpreɪsɪːɪŋ||preɪˈsɪːɪŋ/ [T] to make a précis of

pre-cise /ˈpriːsaɪs/ *adj* 1 exact in form, detail, measurements, time, etc.: *very precise calculations* | *Our train leaves at about half past nine — 09.33 to be precise.* 2 [A] particular; exact; VERY: *At the precise moment that I put my foot on the step, the bus started.* 3 *sometimes derog*

careful and correct about small details: *A lawyer needs a precise mind.* | *a very precise old lady* —opposite **imprecise**

pre-cise-ly /prɪ'saɪsli/ *adv* **1** exactly: *The train leaves at ten o'clock precisely.* **2** yes, that is correct; you are right: *"So you think we ought to wait until autumn?" "Precisely."*

pre-ci-sion¹ /prɪ'sɪʒən/ also **pre-cise-ness** /prɪ'saɪsnəs/ — *n* [U] exactness: *Scientific instruments have to be made with great precision.* —opposite **imprecision**

precision² *adj* [A] **1** made or done with great exactness: *a precision landing* | *precision bombing* **2** used for producing very exact results: *Precision instruments are used to help pilots in guiding their aircraft.*

pre-clude /prɪ'kluːd/ *v* [T (from)] *fml* to prevent; make impossible: *The temporary cease-fire agreement does not preclude possible retaliatory attacks later.* | *I wouldn't want to preclude the possibility of a small payment being made.* (=I wouldn't want to say that that could not happen.) —compare **PREEMPT** —**clusion** /'kluːʒən/ *n* [U]

pre-co-cious /prɪ'kəʊʃəs/ *adj* showing unusually early development of mind or body: *a precocious child who could already talk well at the age of one* | *Her precocious mathematical ability astounded her parents.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness* also *-city fml* /prɪ'kɒsɪti/ — *'kaː-/- n* [U]

pre-cog-ni-tion /,prɪ:kɒg'nɪʃən/ — *'kaːg-/ n* [U (of)] *tech* knowledge of something that will happen in the future, esp. as received in the form of a direct message to the mind which cannot be explained

pre-con-ceived /,prɪ:kən'sɪzvd/ *adj* (of an idea, opinion, etc.) formed in advance, without (enough) knowledge or experience: *To appreciate his work you have to put aside any preconceived notions about how paintings should look.*

pre-con-cep-tion /,prɪ:kən'sepʃən/ *n* [(about)] an opinion formed in advance, without actual knowledge: *Most of my preconceptions about Jane were proved wrong when I eventually met her.*

pre-con-di-tion /,prɪ:kən'dɪʃən/ *n* [(of)] something that must be agreed to in advance if something else is to happen: *He made it a precondition of the talks that they should be held in a neutral country.*

pre-cook /,prɪ:'kʊk/ *v* [T] to cook (food) partly or completely in advance, esp. so as to be heated up again later for eating

pre-cur-sor /prɪ'kʊːsə/ — *'kʊːr-/ n* [(of, to)] *fml* something that comes before another and leads to it or is developed into it: *The precursor of the modern car was a horseless carriage with a petrol engine.* | *Rapidly rising inflation has traditionally been a precursor to recession.*

pre-date /prɪ:'deɪt/ *v* [T (by)] to be earlier in history than; **ANTEDATE**: *This coin predates the Roman occupation.*

pred-a-tor /'predətə/ *n* **1** a predatory animal or bird **2** a predatory person

pred-a-to-ry /'predətəri/ — *'tɔːri/ adj* **1** also **pre-da-ceous**, **pre-da-cious** /prɪ'deɪʃəs/ *fml* rare— (esp. of a wild animal) that kills and eats other animals **2** having the habit of trying to take other people's property: (fig.) *Watch out for that predatory female — she's after every one else's husband!*

pre-de-cease /,prɪ:dɪ'siːs/ *v* [T] *law* to die before (someone): *If you should predecease your wife ...*

pre-de-ces-sor /'prɪ:dɪ'sesə/ — *'pre-/ n* [(of)] **1** a person who held a position before someone else: *Our new doctor is much younger than his predecessor.* **2** something formerly used, but which has now been changed for something else: *This is the fifth plan we've made and it's no better than any of its predecessors.* —compare **SUCCESSOR**

pre-des-ti-na-tion /prɪ'destɪ'neɪʃən, ,prɪ:des-/ *n* [U] **1** the belief that God has decided everything that will happen, and that no human effort can change things —compare **FREE WILL** (2) **2** the belief that by God's wish some souls will go to heaven after death, and others will go to HELL

pre-des-tine /prɪ'destɪn/ *v* [T (to) often pass.] *fml* to settle in advance, esp. as if by fate or the will of God: *The plan seemed predestined to failure.* [+obj+to-v] *It seemed predestined to fail.* | *It was as if we were predestined to meet.*

pre-de-ter-mine /,prɪ:dɪ'tɜːmɪn/ — *'-zɜːr-/ v* [T usu. pass.] *fml* **1** to fix unchangeably from the beginning: *The colour of a person's eyes is predetermined by those of his parents.*

2 to arrange in advance; **PREARRANGE**: *We met at a predetermined spot a few miles out of town.* —**mination** /,prɪdɪtɜːmɪ'neɪʃən/ — *'-zɜːr-/ n* [U]

pre-de-ter-min-er /,prɪ:dɪ'tɜːmɪnə/ — *'-zɜːr-/ n* *tech* a word that can be used before a **DETERMINER** (=word such as **the**, **that**, **his**, etc.): *In the phrases "all the boys" and "both his parents", the words "all" and "both" are predeterminers.*

pre-dic-a-ment /prɪ'dɪkəmənt/ *n* a difficult or unpleasant situation in which one does not know what to do, or must make a difficult choice

pred-i-cate¹ /'predɪkət/ *n* the part of a sentence which makes a statement about the subject: *In "Fishes swim" and "She is an artist", "swim" and "is an artist" are predicates.*

pred-i-cate² /'predɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** [(on) often pass.] to take something as a reason for doing (something else); base: *The company's plans to increase production were predicated on the growing demand for computer products.* **2** [(of)] to state that (a particular quality) belongs to (someone or something): *We predicate rationality of man.*

pre-dic-a-tive /prɪ'dɪkətɪv/ — *'predɪkeɪ-/ adj* (esp. of an adjective or phrase) coming after a verb: *In "He is alive", "alive" is a predicative adjective.* —compare **ATTRIBUTIVE** — *~ly adv*

pre-dict /prɪ'dɪkt/ *v* [T] to see or describe (a future happening) in advance as a result of knowledge, experience, thought, etc.: *The economists predicted an increase in the rate of inflation.* [+that] *The fortune-teller predicted that I would marry a doctor.* [+wh-] *It's hard to predict when it will happen.* —compare **FORECAST**¹

pre-dic-ta-ble /prɪ'dɪktəbəl/ *adj* **1** that can be predicted **2** derog not being or doing anything unexpected or showing any imagination: *You're so predictable!* —opposite **unpredictable** —*bly adv*: *Predictably, he came late.* (=it could be expected because he always does) —**bility** /prɪ'dɪktə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

pre-dic-tion /prɪ'dɪkʃən/ *n* [C;U] the act of predicting or something predicted: *Her prediction turned out to be correct.* [+that] *He made a prediction that the government would be defeated at the general election.* —**-tive** /'dɪktɪv/ *adj* —**-tively adv**

pre-di-gest /,prɪ:daɪ'dʒest, ,prɪ:dɪʒ-/ *v* [T] **1** to make (food) easier for sick people or babies to take, esp. by chemical treatment **2** *infml*, often derog to make simpler, for easy use: *predigested facts*

pre-di-lec-tion /,prɪ:dɪ'lekʃən/ — *'predl'ek-/ n* [(for)] *fml* a special liking that has become a habit: *a predilection for dangerous sports*

pre-dis-pose /,prɪ:dɪs'pəʊz/ *v* [T+obj+adv/prep/to-v] rather *fml* to influence (someone) in the stated way, esp. in advance: *Her father is of course predisposed in her favour.* (=tends to think favourably of her) | *His weak chest predisposes him to* (=makes him tend to have) *winter illnesses.* | *After all the bad things I'd heard about her I wasn't predisposed to like her.* (=I thought I would dislike her) —compare **PREJUDICE**²

pre-dis-po-si-tion /,prɪ:dɪspə'zɪʃən/ *n* [(to, towards)] a state of body or mind that is favourable to something, often something bad: *a predisposition to arthritis* | *an unhealthy predisposition towards violence*

pre-dom-i-nant /prɪ'dɒmɪnənt/ — *'-dɑː-/ adj* [(over)] most powerful, noticeable, or important, or largest in number: *Bright red was the predominant colour in the room.* —**-nance** *n* [S;U (of)] *fml*: *There is a predominance of black people* (=more of them than other races) *in the population of Jamaica.* —compare **PREPONDERANCE**

pre-dom-i-nant-ly /prɪ'dɒmɪnəntli/ — *'-dɑː-/ adv* rather *fml* mostly; mainly: *Jamaica's population is predominantly black.*

pre-dom-i-nate /prɪ'dɒmɪneɪt/ — *'-dɑː-/ v* [I (over)] **1** to have the main power or influence: *The views of the left wing have tended to predominate within the party.* **2** to be greater or greatest in numbers, force, etc.; be most noticeable: *In northern areas pine forests predominate (over deciduous woodland).*

pree-mie /'priːmi/ *n* *AmE infml* a **PREMATURE** (2) baby

pre-em-i-nent /prɪ'emɪnənt/ *adj* [(in, among, at)] *fml* *ap-prec* above all others in having some usu. good quality, ability, or main activity: *This country has always been*

preeminent in the field of medical research. — *~ly adv*
— *nence n* [U]

pre-empt /pri:ˈempt/ *v* [T often pass.] to make (something) ineffective, or remove any reason for doing (something), by taking action in advance: *The council found that their traffic plans had been preempted by a government decision.* — compare PRECLUDE — *~ion* /ˈempʃən/ *n* [U]

pre-emptive /pri:ˈemptiv/ *adj* done before other people have a chance to act, and in order to prevent them from doing so: *a preemptive offer for the property our competitors wanted to buy* | *The army launched a preemptive strike (=attack) against the enemy.* — *~ly adv*

preen /pri:n/ *v* [I;T] (of a bird) to clean or smooth (itself or its feathers) with its beak: (fig.) *He was preening himself in front of the mirror.*

preen sbdy. **on/upon** sthg. *phr v* [T] *derog rare* to feel proud of or satisfied with (oneself) because of (an action or quality)

pre-exist /ˌpri:ɪgˈzɪst/ *v* [I] *fml* to exist before, esp. as a soul before uniting with the present body — *~ence n* [U] — *~ent adj*

pre-fab /ˌpri:fæb/ *n* *infml* a small prefabricated house, esp. of the type put up in Britain and elsewhere after the Second World War. Prefabs were intended as temporary homes to replace houses which were destroyed in the war, though some prefabs are still in use in Britain now.

pre-fab-ri-cate /pri:ˈfæbrɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] to make (the parts of a building, ship, etc.) in a factory in large numbers and standard sizes, ready for fitting together in any place chosen for building — **cation** /pri:ˈfæbrɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pre-fab-ri-cat-ed /pri:ˈfæbrɪkeɪtɪd/ *adj* (of a building, ship, etc.) built out of prefabricated parts

pref-ace ¹ /ˈprefɪs/ *n* [(to)] **1** an introduction to a book or speech **2** an action that is intended to introduce something else more important

▷ USAGE A **preface**, a **foreword**, and an **introduction** all come in the first pages of a book before the main contents. An **introduction** is usually longer than a **preface** or **foreword**. A **foreword** is sometimes more informal than a **preface** or **introduction**, or written from a more personal point of view. The **beginning** of the book is the early part of the actual contents, after the **preface**. ◀

preface ² *v* [T] *fml* **1** to act as a preface to: *Several pages of closely reasoned argument preface her account of the war.* **2** [+obj+adv/prep, esp. with] to introduce (speech or writing) in the stated way: *She prefaced her remarks with a few words of welcome to the guest speaker.* — compare PREFIX ² (2)

pref-a-to-ry /ˈprefətəri/ *adj* *fml* acting as a preface or introduction: *a few prefatory remarks*

pre-fect /ˈpri:fekt/ *n* **1** (in some British schools) an older pupil with certain powers to control and punish other pupils **2** (sometimes cap.) (in certain countries) a public officer or judge with duties in government, the police, or the army: *the Prefect of Police of Paris*

pre-fec-ture /ˈpri:fektʃʊə/ *n* **1** a governmental division or area of certain countries, such as France and Japan **2** (in France) the official home or place of work of a prefect

pre-fer /pri:ˈfɜ:ɪ/ *v* -rr- [T not in progressive forms] **1** [(to)] to choose (one thing or action) rather than another; like better: *“Would you like meat or fish?” “I’d prefer meat, please.”* | *I much prefer dogs to cats.* [+v-ing] *I prefer singing to acting.* [+to-v] *He chose Spain, but personally I’d prefer to go to Greece.* [+obj+to-v] *“Let me wash the dishes — or would you prefer me to dry them?”* [+that] *Would you prefer that we reschedule the meeting for next week?* **2** law to officially make (a charge) against someone: *Since they are so young, the police have decided not to prefer charges/a charge.* **3** [(to)] *fml or tech* to appoint to a higher position, esp. in the church

pref-e-ra-ble /ˈprefərəbəl/ *adj* [(to)] better, esp. because more suitable; that one should or would prefer: *A dark suit is preferable to a light one for evening wear.* | *Anything is preferable to having her stay for the whole week!* — *bly adv*: *I can meet you at any time tomorrow, but preferably not before 11 o’clock.* (=I would prefer not before 11 o’clock)

pref-e-rence /ˈprefərəns/ *n* [C;U] **1** (for, to) (a) liking for one thing rather than another: *Of the two, my preference is for the smaller car.* | *I don’t know your preferences, so please help yourself.* (=choose the things you prefer) | *“Would you like tea or coffee?” “Either; I’ve no strong preference.”* | *He always drinks red wine in preference to (=rather than) white.* **2** [(over, to)] (a) special favour or consideration shown to a person, group, etc., esp. in business matters: *We’ve granted that country special trade preferences.* | *In considering people for jobs, we give preference to those with some experience.* | *Teachers try not to show preference to any particular student.*

preference share /ˈ... ɪ/ *BrE* || **preferred stock** *AmE* — *n* a SHARE ¹ (2) in a public company that usu. pays a fixed rather than a variable DIVIDEND, and which would be worth more than an ordinary share if the company were to fail

pref-e-ren-tial /ˌprefəˈrenʃəl/ *adj* [A] of, giving, receiving, or showing PREFERENCE (2): *The theatre gives preferential booking privileges to its regular patrons.* | *a controversial new law that gives preferential treatment to certain minority groups* — *~ly adv*: *Don’t expect to be treated preferentially.*

pre-fer-ment /pri:ˈfɜ:mənt/ *n* [U (to)] *fml or tech* appointment to a higher rank or position, esp. in the church

preferred stock /ˌ... ɪ/ *n* [U;C] *AmE* for PREFERENCE SHARE

pre-fig-ure /ˌpri:ˈfɪgə/ *v* [T] *fml* to be a sign of (something that will come later): *This meeting may prefigure an improvement in relations between the two countries.* — **uration** /pri:ˈfɪgəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pre-fix ¹ /ˈpri:fɪks/ *n* **1** (in grammar) an AFFIX added to the beginning of a word (as in *untie*, *misunderstood*) — compare SUFFIX **2** a title used before a person’s name: *“Mr” and “Dr” are prefixes.* **3** a CODE ¹ (3)

prefix ² *v* [T] **1** to add a prefix to (a word or name) **2** [(to)] to add (something) to the beginning (of): *She prefixed a few complimentary remarks to her speech.* — compare PREFACE ²

preg-nan-cy /ˈpregnənsi/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the condition of being pregnant: *You are advised not to smoke during pregnancy.* | *This is her third pregnancy.*

pregnancy test /ˈ... ɪ/ *n* a test performed on a woman’s URINE to find out whether she is pregnant or not. In many countries women can buy pregnancy test materials at the CHEMIST’s and do the test themselves.

preg-nant /ˈpregnənt/ *adj* **1** (of a woman or female animal) having an unborn child or unborn young in the body: *She was pregnant with her second child.* | *How long has she been pregnant?* [after.n] *She’s five months pregnant.* **2** [A] full of important but unexpressed or hidden meaning: *His words were followed by a pregnant pause.* **3** [F+with] *fml* filled with something not yet fully known, understood, or developed; giving signs or warnings of some future development: *Every phrase in this poem is pregnant with meaning.* | *a situation pregnant with several interesting possibilities* — *~ly adv*

pre-heat /ˌpri:ˈhi:t/ *v* [T] to heat up (an OVEN) to a particular temperature before using it for cooking

pre-hen-sile /pri:ˈhensəl/ *adj* *tech* (of a part of the body) able to curl round things and hold on to them: *The monkey was hanging from the branch by its prehensile tail.*

pre-his-tor-ic /ˌpri:hɪˈstɒrɪk/ *adj* of a time before recorded history: *prehistoric man* | *prehistoric burial grounds* | (fig.) *His ideas on morals are really prehistoric.* (=very old-fashioned) — compare HISTORIC — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

pre-his-to-ry /pri:ˈhɪstəri/ *n* [U] the time in human history before there were any written records

pre-judge /ˌpri:ˈdʒʌdʒ/ *v* [T] *derog* to form an opinion about (someone or something) before knowing or examining all the facts: *Try not to prejudge the issue.* — **judgment**, **-judgement** *n* [C;U]

prej-u-dice ¹ /ˈpredʒʊdɪs/ *n* **1** [C;U] (against, in favour of) (an) unfair and often unfavourable feeling or opinion formed without thinking deeply and clearly or without enough knowledge, and sometimes resulting from fear or distrust of ideas different from one’s own: *They accused him of having a prejudice against his women employees.* | *A judge must be free from prejudice.* | *A new law has been brought in to discourage racial prejudice.*

(=prejudice against members of other races) **2** [U] *fml* a harm caused to something or someone by the action or judgment of another: *He continued to smoke, to the prejudice of his health.* **b** harm to one's own right or claim in law: *We accept this interim settlement, without prejudice to our claim for a full settlement later on.* (=we still keep our right to such a claim)

prejudice² *v* [T] **1** [(against/in favour of) often *pass.*] to cause to have a prejudice; influence unfairly: *She's prejudiced against French wine because she's Italian.* | *His pleasant voice and manner prejudiced the jury in his favour.* **2** to weaken or harm (someone's case, expectations, etc.): *Your bad spelling may prejudice your chances of getting the job.* —compare PREDISPOSE

prej-u-diced /'predʒɪdɪst/ *adj* *derog* feeling or showing prejudice; unfair: *Don't ask him; he's prejudiced.* | *a prejudiced judgment* | *racially prejudiced* —opposite **un-prejudiced**

prej-u-di-cial /,predʒɪ'dɪʃəl/ *adj* [F+to] *rather fml* harmful: *Too much smoking is prejudicial to health.*

pre-l-ate /'prelɪt/ *n* a priest of high position in the church, such as a BISHOP or ABBOT

pre-lim-i-na-ry¹ /prɪ'limɪnəri/-neri/ *adj* [A] coming before and introducing or preparing for something more important: *The students take a preliminary test in March, and the main exam in July.* | *Our team got beaten in the preliminary rounds of the competition.* | *May I make a few preliminary remarks before we start the interview?*

preliminary² *n* [*usu. pl.*] something done first, to introduce or prepare for later things: *There are a lot of preliminaries to be gone through before you can visit certain foreign countries.*

pre-lit-e-rate /,prɪ'litərɪt/ *adj tech* not having a written language or keeping written records: *ancient preliterate societies* —compare ILLITERATE

pre-l-ude /'preljʊd/ *n* [(to)] **1** [*usu. sing.*] something that is followed by something larger or more important: *The fighting in the streets may be a prelude to more serious trouble.* **2** **a** a short piece of music that introduces a large musical work: *the prelude to Wagner's "Master-singers"* **b** a short separate piece of music for piano or ORGAN

pre-mar-i-tal /prɪ'mærɪtəl/ *adj* happening or existing before marriage —*~ly adv*

premar-i-tal con-tract /,prɪ'mærɪtəl/ also **prenuptial agreement**—*n* *AmE* an agreement made by two people getting married about how to divide up their property if they decide to separate. Premarital contracts are common in the US but not in Britain.

premarital sex /,prɪ'mærɪtəl/ *n* [U] sexual relations between a man and a woman before marriage. In Britain, the US, and many other Western countries, this is thought to be quite common and it is not generally considered to be as immoral or shocking as it was in former times, though some groups are strongly against it, e.g. the Catholic Church.

pre-ma-ture /'premætʃər, -tʃʊər, ,premə'tʃʊər/ *adj* **1** developing or happening before the natural or proper time: *His premature death at the age of 32 is a great loss.* **2** (of a baby or birth) born or happening after less than the usual period of time inside the mother's body: [after *n*] *The baby was two months premature.* (=was born two months earlier than expected) **3** *derog* done too early or too soon: *I think your criticism of the new law is a bit premature, as we don't yet know all the details.* —*~ly adv*

pre-med /prɪ'med/ *n, adj* *AmE abbrev. for:* premedical; the university course a student takes before entering medical school: *premed studies* | *She's premed* (she is taking premedical studies).

pre-med-i-tat-ed /prɪ'medɪteɪtɪd/ *adj* often *derog* planned in advance and done on purpose: *premeditated murder* | *a premeditated attack on my reputation* —opposite **unpremeditated** —**-ion** /prɪ'medɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] *fml*: *The jury has to decide if the act was committed with premeditation.*

pre-men-stru-al /prɪ'menstruəl/ *adj tech* happening just before a PERIOD (4)

premenstrual ten-sion /,prɪ'menstruəl/ also **PMT, premenstrual syndrome**—*n* [U] the unpleasant feelings including

tiredness, headaches and bad temper felt by many women during the days before a PERIOD (4), that are caused by changes in the levels of HORMONES in the body. In the past, many people did not take women seriously when they complained about these feelings. It is now generally accepted that PMT is quite common and can cause real suffering and upsetting changes in behaviour.

prem-i-er¹ /'premiər/ *n* (often *cap.*) (esp. in newspapers) PRIME MINISTER: *The Irish premier is paying an official visit to Britain.* | *"Premier Wilson resigns"* (news story title) —*~ship n*

premier² *adj* [A] *fml* *apprec* finest or most important: *She attended Britain's premier university.*

Premier Di-vi-sion /,premiə'vɪʃən/ [the] the top division in Scottish football —compare PREMIER LEAGUE; see also FOOTBALL (1)

prem-i-ere¹, -ère /'premiər/ *n* the first public performance of a play or film

premiere², -ère *v* [T often *pass.*] to give a premiere of (a play or film): *His film was premiered in New York.*

Premier League /,premiə'liːg/ [the] the top division in English football —compare PREMIER DIVISION; see also FOOTBALL (1)

Prem-in-ger /'premiɪndʒər/, **Ot-to** /'ɒtəʊ/ (1906–86) an American film DIRECTOR, born in Austria. His films include *Anatomy of a Murder* and *Exodus*.

prem-ise /'premiːs/ *n* **1** *fml* a statement or idea on which reasoning is based: [+that] *British and American justice works on the premise that an accused person is innocent until he's proved guilty.* **2** also **prem-iss** /'premiːs/—*tech* (in LOGIC) either of two statements (**major premise** and **minor premise**) from which a third statement can be proved to be true

prem-is-es /'premiːsɪz/ *n* [P] a building with any surrounding land, considered as a particular piece of property: *Taxes on business premises are higher than those on private premises.* | *Food bought in this shop may not be eaten on the premises.* (=must be taken away and eaten somewhere else)

pre-mi-um /'priːmiəm/ *n* **1** [C] a payment made to buy insurance: *The annual premium on my policy is £50.* **2** [C] an additional amount of money (above a standard rate) **3** [U] *AmE* HIGH-OCTANE petrol **4** **at a premium**: **a** (of a business share) at a rate above the usual value **b** rare or difficult to get, and therefore worth more than usual: *During the holiday months hotel rooms are at a premium.* **5** **put a premium on** to cause (a quality or action) to be advantageous: *Work paid according to the amount done puts a premium on speed and not on quality.*

premium bond /'premiəm bɒnd/ *n* (often *caps.*) (in Britain) a numbered piece of paper bought from the government, that gives the buyer the chance of a monthly prize of a small or large amount of money —see also ERNIE

pre-mo-ni-tion /,premə'nɪʃən, ,prɪː-/ *n* [(of)] a feeling that something, esp. something unpleasant, is going to happen; forewarning: *The day before her accident, she had a premonition of danger.*

pre-mon-i-to-ry /prɪ'mɒnɪtəri/-'mɑːnɪtəri/ *adj fml* giving a warning

pre-na-tal /,prɪ'neɪtəl/ *adj* *AmE* for ANTENATAL —*~ly adv*

pre-nup-tial a-gree-ment /prɪ'nʌpʃəl ə'ɡriːmənt/ *n* see PREMARITAL CONTRACT

pre-oc-cu-pa-tion /prɪ'ɒkjʊ'peɪʃən/-,ɑːk-/ *n* **1** [S;U (with)] the state of being preoccupied: *Such an excessive preoccupation with one's health can't be normal.* **2** [C] something that takes up one's attention: *He's got so many preoccupations at the moment that he ignores his family completely.*

pre-oc-cu-pied /prɪ'ɒkjʊ'paɪd/-,ɑːk-/ *adj* [(with)] with the mind fixed on something, esp. something worrying, so that one pays no attention to anything else: *a preoccupied expression* | *Come and see me next week, when I'm not so preoccupied with the annual accounts.*

pre-oc-cu-py /prɪ'ɒkjʊ'paɪ/-,ɑːk-/ *v* [T] to fill the thoughts of (someone or someone's mind) almost completely, esp. so that not enough attention is given to other things: *Something's been preoccupying you lately — what is it?*

pre-or-dain /,prɪ'ɔːdeɪn/-ɔːr-/ *v* [T (to) *usu. pass.*] *fml* (esp. of God or fate) to fix or decide in advance or from the beginning: *I sometimes think our failure was preordained.*

[+(that)] *Perhaps it was preordained that we should fail.*
[+obj+to-v] *We seemed preordained to fail.* — ~ment,
-dination /ˌpri:ɔːdɪˈneɪʃən/ -ɔːr- fml n [C;U]

prep¹ /prep/ n [U] *BrE infml* school work that is done at home. This word is more often used by children in private schools than in STATE SCHOOLS, where the usual word is HOMEWORK.

prep² v -pp- *AmE infml* 1 [I] to attend PREPARATORY school: *My little brother's still prepping.* 2 [I] to do school work at home 3 [T] to prepare (someone) for an operation or examination: *The nurse prepped the patient for surgery.*

prep³ n *written abbrev. for:* PREPOSITION

pre-pack /ˌpriːˈpæk/ also **pre-pack-age** /-ˈpækɪdʒ/— v [T] to wrap up (food or other articles) before offering it for sale

pre-paid /ˌpriːˈpeɪd/ adj already paid for: *Return the film in the prepaid envelope.* (=the user does not have to put a stamp on)

pre-pa-r-a-tion /ˌprepəˈreɪʃən/ n 1 [U (for, of)] the act or process of preparing: *He didn't do enough preparation for his exam, and failed.* | *Plans for the new school are now in preparation.* (=being prepared) 2 [C (for) usu. pl.] an arrangement for a future event: *Preparations for the queen's visit are almost complete.* 3 [C] something that has been made by mixing a number of (chemical) substances, usu. for use as a medicine, COSMETIC, etc.: *a new preparation for cleaning the skin*

pre-par-a-to-ry /prɪˈpærətəri/ -tɔːri/ adj [A] 1 done in order to get ready for something: *preparatory talks to clear the way for a settlement* 2 **preparatory to** fml as a preparation for; before: *several meetings preparatory to signing the contract*

preparatory school /-ˈ...../ also **prep school** *infml*— n 1 (in Britain) a private school for children between the ages of 8 and 13, where they are made ready to attend a school for older pupils, usu. a PUBLIC SCHOOL. Only a small PERCENTAGE of school-age children attend these schools. Most preparatory schools are for boys only or girls only. 2 (in the US) a private school that makes pupils ready for college

pre-prepare /prɪˈpeə/ v 1 [T (for)] to put into a suitable state for a purpose, event, or experience: *First prepare the rice by washing it, then cook it in boiling water.* | *a course that prepares students for the English exams* [+obj+to-v] *preparing the city to withstand an attack* 2 [T (for)] to put together or make, e.g. by combining things: *The defence lawyers asked for another week to prepare their case.* | *John is preparing a meal for us.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *John is preparing us a meal.* 3 [I;T (for)] to get ready or make by collecting supplies, making necessary arrangements, planning, studying, etc.: *Will you help me prepare for the party?* | *Who prepared these building plans?* [+to-v] *They are busy preparing to go on holiday.* 4 [I;T (for)] to put (oneself) into a suitable state of mind for something: *Prepare (yourself) for a shock.* [+to-v] *Prepare to die, you cowardly traitor!* [+obj+to-v] *He prepared himself to accept defeat.*

pre-prepare /prɪˈpeəd/ -ˈpeəd/ adj 1 made in advance: *The chairman read out a prepared statement.* 2 [F+to-v] willing: *I'm not prepared to listen to all your weak excuses.* 3 [F+for] expecting: *I wasn't prepared for such a large bill.* 4 **Be prepared** the MOTTO of the BOY SCOUTS, often used humorously when saying that a person should carry a particular thing with them because it might be useful

pre-prepare-ness /prɪˈpeədɪs, -ˈpeərɪd-/-ˈpeərəd-, -ˈpeəd-/ n [U] (the state of) being ready for something: *the country's lack of military preparedness*

pre-pay /ˌpriːˈpeɪ/ v -paid /ˈpeɪd/ [T] to pay for (something) in advance: *All accommodation must be prepaid.*

pre-pon-de-rance /prɪˈpɒndərəns/ -ˈpɑːn-/ n [S (of)] fml the state of being greater in amount, number, etc.: *There was a preponderance of female students in the music department.* (=there were more females than males) —compare PREDOMINANT —**rant** adj [(over)] —**rantly** adv

pre-pon-de-rate /prɪˈpɒndəreɪt/ -ˈpɑːn-/ v [I (over)] fml to be greater in quantity, importance, influence, etc.

prep-o-si-tion /ˌprepəˈzɪʃən/ n a word used with a noun, PRONOUN, or -ing form to show its connection with another word: *In "a house made of wood" and "We opened*

it by breaking the lock", "of", and "by" are prepositions: Words followed by Prepositions — ~al adj — ~ally adv: In "He went out of the door", "out" is being used prepositionally.

prepositional phrase /ˌ..... ˈ-/ n *tech* a phrase consisting of a preposition and the noun following it (such as *in bed, in his bed, in the bed*)

pre-pos-sessed /ˌpriːpəˈzest/ adj [F] fml 1 [+by] favourably influenced 2 PREOCCUPIED —**session** /ˈzeʃən/ n [C;U]

pre-pos-sess-ing /ˌpriːpəˈzesɪŋ/ adj fml *apprec* producing a favourable effect at once; attractive: *a prepossessing smile* —opposite **unprepossessing**

pre-pos-ter-ous /prɪˈpɒstərəs/ -ˈpɑːs-/ adj fml 1 completely unreasonable; ABSURD: *What a preposterous suggestion!* 2 foolish in a way that makes people laugh: *Look at that preposterous car — 25 feet long and covered in chromium!* — ~ly adv

prep-py /ˈprepi/ adj *AmE infml* typical of students or former students of expensive private schools in the US, esp. in being neat and well-dressed: *a preppy girl.* | *preppy clothes* | *a bar that caters for the rich preppy set*

prep school /-ˈ...../ n *infml* for PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Pre-Raph-ael-ite /ˌpriːˈræfələɪt/ -ˈfiələɪt/ n a person belonging to the group of late 19th-century English painters (**Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood**) who based their work on the supposed artistic principles and practices of the late Middle Ages, turning away from industrialized Britain to look for the beauty of the past. Their paintings had many small details and often used bright colours on a white background. One of the best-known Pre-Raphaelites was D G ROSSETTI and one of the most famous followers of the group was William Morris. —**Pre-Raphaelite** adj

pre-re-cord /ˌpriːrɪˈkɔːd/ -ˈkɔːrd/ v [T] to record (music, a play, a speech, etc.) on a machine for later use

pre-req-ui-site /prɪˈrekwɪzɪt/ n [(of, for, to)] fml something that is necessary before something else can happen or be done: *A reasonable proficiency in English is a prerequisite of/for joining this advanced course.*

pre-rog-a-tive /prɪˈrɒɡətɪv/ -ˈrɑː-/ n [usu. sing.] a special right belonging to a particular person, esp. because of the official position they hold: *The President may use his prerogative to pardon a criminal.* —compare PRIVILEGE (1); see also ROYAL PREROGATIVE

pres. *written abbrev. for:* 1 present 2 (usu. cap.) president

pres-age¹ /ˈpresɪdʒ, prɪˈseɪdʒ/ v [T not in progressive forms] fml or lit to be a warning or sign of (a future event)

pres-age² /ˈpresɪdʒ/ n [(of)] lit a warning feeling or sign that something, esp. something bad, will happen

Pres-by-te-ri-an /ˌprezbɪˈtɪəriən/ n, adj (a member) of a Protestant church governed by a body of official people all of equal rank and following the principles of Calvinism including severe rules of behaviour and morals. John Knox established Presbyterianism in Scotland where it has had a great influence on society, and there are also Presbyterian churches in other parts of the UK, the US, and other countries. — ~ism n [U]

pres-by-ter-y /ˌprezbɪˈtəri/ -teri/ n 1 (in the Presbyterian Church) (the area controlled by) a local court or ruling body 2 (in the Roman Catholic Church) the house in which a local priest lives 3 the eastern part of a church, behind the place where the CHOIR (=trained singers) sit

pre-school¹ /ˌpriːˈskuːl/ adj [A] of or in the time in a child's life before it goes to school

pre-school² /ˌpriːˈskuːl/ n *AmE* for NURSERY SCHOOL

pre-school play-group /ˌ..... ˈ-/ n PLAYGROUP

pre-sci-ent /ˈpreʃɪənt/ adj lit or fml able to imagine or guess what will probably happen —**ence** n [U]

pre-scribe /prɪˈskraɪb/ v [I;T (for)] 1 to say (what medicine or treatment) a sick person should or must have:

preppies



What can you prescribe for the pain in my back, doctor?
2 *fml* to state (what must happen or be done in certain conditions): *What punishment does the law prescribe for this crime?* [+wh-] *Someone who does such foolish things as you has no right to prescribe how others should behave.*
 —compare PROSCRIBE

pre-scribed /prɪˈskraɪbd/ *adj* fixed (as if) by rule: *It's quite an informal job; you don't have to work a prescribed number of hours.*

pre-script /ˈprɪzˌskɪpt/ *n fml* an order or rule that is prescribed (PRESCRIBE (2))

pre-scrip-tion /prɪˈskɪpʃən/ *n* **1** [C (for)] **a** a particular medicine or treatment ordered by a doctor for a person's illness: (fig.) *What's your prescription for a happy marriage?* (=What do you suggest is needed to make a marriage happy?) **b** a written order describing this, which is given to a person by his or her doctor (in Britain, a GP) and is then taken to a CHEMIST (BrE) or PHARMACIST (AmE) who will supply the medicine described in it. There are certain drugs and medicines which chemists are not allowed to sell to people without prescriptions. **2** [U] the act of prescribing

prescription charge /ˌprezənˈtʃəʒ/ *n* [usu. pl.] (in Britain) an amount of money that has to be paid (usu. to a CHEMIST) when getting medicine through the National Health Service. These charges increased in the 1980s but still do not represent the full cost of the medicine. Certain groups of people, e.g. children, old people, and the unemployed, do not have to pay. In the US, people have to pay the full amount for any medicine that they need.

pre-scrip-tive /prɪˈskɪptɪv/ *adj* **1** *tech*, sometimes derog saying how a language ought to be used, rather than simply describing how it is used: *prescriptive grammar* —compare DESCRIPTIVE (2) **2** *fml* saying how something should be done or what someone should do —**tivism** *n* [U] —**tivist** *n* —**ly** *adv*

prescriptive right /ˌprezənˈsɪv/ *n* *law* a right to do something which has existed for so long by custom that it has the force of law

pres-ence /ˈprezəns/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of being present: *She was so quiet that her presence was hardly noticed.* | *Your presence is requested at the club meeting on Thursday.* | *He never seemed at ease in my presence.* (=when I was there; when we were together) | *The concert will be performed in the presence of the Queen.* (=she will attend it) | *The police scientists detected the presence of poison in the dead woman's blood.* —opposite **absence** **2** [S] a group of people of the stated type in a place, regarded as a sign that they or their country are active or have influence there: *He advocated the withdrawal of the American presence in the Lebanon.* | *There was a strong police presence at the anti-nuclear rally.* **3** [S;U] *apprec* personal qualities and ways of behaving that have a strong effect on others: *a man of great presence* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] a spirit or an influence that cannot be seen but is felt to be near: *I could feel a strange presence in the room.* **5** **make one's presence felt** to have a strong noticeable effect (on the people around one): *Since she joined the team last season she has really made her presence felt.* (=by playing well)

presence of mind /ˌprezənˈsɪv/ *n* [U] *apprec* the ability to act calmly, quickly, and wisely in conditions of sudden danger or surprise: *When the fire started in the kitchen, John had the presence of mind to turn off the gas.*

pres-ent¹ /ˈprezənt/ *n* **1** something that is given willingly, without the expectation that anything will be given in return; a gift: *They unwrapped their Christmas presents.* —see colour picture on page 1212 **2** **make someone a present of something:** **a** to give someone something as a gift: *I don't want all these old books; I'll make you a present of them.* **b** *infml* to give something away to someone carelessly: *They made the other team a present of a goal by careless play.*

pre-sent² /prɪˈzent/ *v* **1** [T (to, with)] to give (something) away, esp. at a ceremonial occasion: *to present the prizes at the annual flower show* | *When Mr. Brown left the firm, the director presented a gold watch to him/presented him with a gold watch.* | (fig.) *His wife presented him with a brand-new baby girl.* **2** [T (to, with)] to be the cause of: *He's clever with computers; they present no problems to him.* | *His sudden resignation presents us with a tricky situation.* **3** [T (to)] to offer for consideration or acceptance: *When are the committee presenting their report?* **4**

[T (to)] to be when looked at; show: *The grim walls of the prison present a forbidding picture to a new inmate.* **5** [T] to provide for the public to see or hear in a theatre, cinema, etc.: *The National Theatre is presenting "King Lear" next month.* **6** [T] to introduce and take part in (a television or radio show): *And here to present the show tonight is Bob Hope.* **7** [T (to)] *fml* to offer politely: *Mrs Gottlieb presents her apologies, but she won't be able to attend.* | *Mr Cox presents his compliments* (=greet you politely), *and asks if you will join him.* **8** [T (to)] *fml* to introduce (someone) formally, esp. to someone of higher rank: *He had the honour of being presented to the Queen.* | *May I present Mr. Jobbings?* **9** **present arms** (used esp. in giving a military order) to hold a weapon upright in front of the body as a ceremonial greeting to an officer or person of high rank **10** **present itself:** **a** (of an idea) to arrive in the mind, esp. unexpectedly **b** (of something possible) to happen: *If the chance to buy this farm presents itself, buy it.* **11** **present oneself** *fml* (of a person) to attend; arrive; be present: *He was ordered to present himself at the chairman's office at nine o'clock next morning.*

pres-ent³ /ˈprezənt/ *adj* **1** [F] in this/that place; here/there: *How many people were present at the meeting?* | *Small amounts of the gas are present in the atmosphere.* | *It was unfair to discuss his case if he wasn't present.* —opposite **absent** **2** [A] existing or being considered now: *What's your present address?* | *It's usually best to wait, but in the present case* (=in this case) *I'd advise you to act without delay.* **3** [A] being the form of a verb that shows an existing state or act: *"He wants" and "They are coming" are examples of verbs in the present tense.* **4** [F] *fml* strongly felt, remembered, or imagined: *The tragic death of her son last year is still present in her mind.* **5** **all present and correct humor** a phrase said by someone who is reporting that all the people or things that should be in a place are now there **6** **present company** (always) **excepted** (used when making unfavourable or rude remarks about people) not including anyone now here in this place —see also PRESENTLY

present⁴ *n* [the] **1** the PRESENT³ (2) time: *encouraging them to live in the present and not have regrets over lost opportunities in the past* | *"I'm thinking of asking her to marry me."* "Well, there's no time like the present." (=you should ask her now) **2** *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows what exists or is happening now —see also HISTORIC PRESENT **3** **at present:** **a** now; at this time; at this moment: *She's busy at present and can't speak to you.* **b** during this period of time: *At present he's Professor of Chemistry at Oxford.* —see PRESENTLY (USAGE) **4** **for the present** now but not necessarily in the future: *Let's leave things as they are for the present; we can always make changes later on if we have to.*

pre-sen-ta-ble /prɪˈzentəbəl/ *adj* *apprec* suitable to be shown, heard, etc., in public; fit to be seen and judged: *He looked very presentable in his new suit.* | *I'm just going upstairs to make myself presentable* (=make my appearance tidy) *before the guests arrive.* | *The children made quite a presentable snowman.* —**bly** *adv*

pre-sen-ta-tion /ˌprezənˈteɪʃən/, /prɪˈzen-, -zən/ *n* **1** [C;U (of)] the act of presenting something: *There are two presentations of the cabaret each night.* | *The presentation of prizes will begin at three o'clock.* **2** [U (of)] the way in which something is said, offered, shown, explained, etc., to others: *It's this product's attractive presentation* (=the way it is wrapped up, advertised, etc.) *that makes it sell so well.* **3** [C (on)] a talk, usu. to a group of people, in which information is given: *The sales director will give a short presentation on the new sales campaign.* **4** [C;U] *med* the position in which a baby is lying in the mother's body just before birth —**al** *adj*: *Our party's policies are right; our only problems are presentational.* (=we do not explain them in a way that makes them seem attractive)

presentation copy /ˌprezənˈteɪʃən/ *n* a book given away free, esp. by the writer

pres-ent-day /ˌprezənt ˈdeɪ/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] modern; existing now

pre-sent-er /prɪˈzentə/ *esp. BrE* || *announcer, host* *AmE* —*n* a person who PRESENTS² (6) a television or radio show

pre-sen-ti-ment /prɪˈzentɪmənt/ *n* [(of)] *fml* an unexplained uncomfortable feeling that something, esp. something bad, is going to happen; PREMONITION: *a presentiment of danger*

pres-ent-ly /'prezəntli/ *adv* **1** in a short time; soon: *The doctor will be here presently.* **2** *esp. AmE & ScotE* at present; now: *The doctor is presently writing a book.*

▷ **USAGE** British speakers are beginning to use **presently** to mean “now”, as the Americans do, rather than “soon”. At **present** always means “now”. ◀

present par-ti-ci-ple /,prezə'teɪʃənəl/ *n* **tech** (in grammar) a PARTICIPLE that is formed in English by adding -ing to the verb and can be used in compound forms of the verb to show PROGRESSIVE tenses (such as *sleeping* in *She's sleeping*), or sometimes as an adjective (such as *sleeping* in *a sleeping child*) —compare VERBAL NOUN

present per-fect /,prezə'teɪʃənəl/ also **present perfect tense** /,prezə'teɪʃənəl/ *n* [the+S] *fml* or *tech* for PERFECT

pres-er-va-tion /,prezə'veɪʃənəl/ *n* [U] the act of preserving or state of being preserved: *The police are responsible for the preservation of law and order.* | *The old building is in a good state of preservation* (=in good condition after a long time) *except for the wooden floors.* —see also SELF-PRESERVATION

preservation or-der /,prezə'veɪʃənəl/ *n* *esp. BrE* an official order that something, esp. a historical building, must be preserved and not destroyed

pre-ser-va-tive /prɪ'zɜ:vətɪv/ *n, adj* [C;U] (a usu. chemical substance) that can be used to PRESERVE¹ (3) foods. In many countries, there are now rules about the use of preservatives because of the dangers to health —see E NUMBER

pre-serve¹ /prɪ'zɜ:v/ *v* [T] **1** [(from)] to prevent (someone or something) from being harmed or destroyed: *The ancient Egyptians knew ways to preserve dead bodies (from decay).* | *I think these interesting old customs should be preserved.* | (*humor*) *Lord preserve us from these so-called experts!* **2** to cause (a condition) to last; keep unchanged: *He's managed to preserve his independence.* | *It's the duty of the police to preserve public order.* **3** [(in)] to treat (food) in such a way that it can be kept a long time: *preserved fruit* | *figs preserved in brandy* —see also WELL-PRESERVED —**servable** *adj* —**server** *n*

preserve² *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*; U] (often in comb.) becoming old-fashioned a substance made from fruit boiled in sugar, used esp. for spreading on bread; *JAM: strawberry preserve* **2** [C] a stretch of land or water kept for private hunting or fishing **3** [C] something that belongs to or is for the use of only a certain person or limited number of people: *She considers the arranging of flowers in the church to be her own personal preserve.* | *In the past, fire-fighting/child-care has always been a male/female preserve.*

pre-set /,prɪ'set/ *v* **preset**, *present participle* **presetting** [T] to set in advance: *You can preset the video to record programmes while you are out.*

pre-shrunk /,prɪ'sʃrʌŋk/ *adj* (of cloth) made to SHRINK before being sold in order to prevent shrinking after use

pre-side /prɪ'zaɪd/ *v* [I (at, over)] *fml* to be in charge (of); lead: *Who is presiding at this meeting?* | *the presiding officer* | *As prime minister, she presided over the biggest ever rise in unemployment.*

pres-i-den-cy /'prezɪdənsi/ *n* **1** [(of)] the office of president: *Roosevelt was elected four times to the presidency of the US.* **2** the period during which a person is president

pres-i-dent /'prezɪdənt/ *n* [(of)] **1** (often *cap.*) the leader, and often also ruler or chief governing official, of many modern states that do not have a king or queen: *the President of France* | *President Bush* —see extra information on page 568 and see colour picture on page 950

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US, an election for president is held every four years. Presidents cannot serve more than two TERMS (periods of time), which means that no president can remain in power for longer than eight years. This rule only started in the 1940s, but President Franklin Roosevelt is the only president to have served more than two terms. It is often said that any child born in the US can grow up to become president, because one does not need to come from the upper class or have an important family to become president, although these things sometimes help. Women may run for president, but so far no woman has become president. ◀

2 (sometimes *cap.*) the head of a club or society, some universities or colleges, some government departments, etc.: *the President of the Royal Academy* | *I was invited to become president of the local camera club.* **3** *esp. AmE*

(sometimes *cap.*) the head of a business company, bank, etc.: *the president of General Motors* —~**ial** /,prezɪ'denʃəl/ *adj*: *presidential government* | *a presidential election* | (*AmE*) *Next year will be a presidential year.* (=there will be an election to choose a president)

president pro tem-po-re /,prezɪdənt prəʊ'tempərə/ also **president pro tem** /,prezɪdənt prə'tem/ *infml*—*n* a member of the US Senate who is elected by the other members of the Senate to control the course of its business when the US Vice-President, who is usu. responsible, is away

President's Day /'prezɪdnts deɪ/ *n* an American public holiday in February which celebrates the birthdays of presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

pre-sid-i-um, praes- /prɪ'sɪdɪəm, -'zɪ-/ *n* ~s or -ia /-diə/ (*esp. in Communist countries*) a committee chosen to represent and act for a larger body, esp. a political body: *the presidium of the Supreme Soviet*

Pres-ley /'prezli/, **El-vis** /'elvɪs/ (1935–77) an American singer and GUITAR player who made ROCK 'N' ROLL (later called ROCK) popular in the 1950s. From 1956–63, he was the most successful and influential person in popular music. He was sometimes called “Elvis the Pelvis” because of the way he moved the lower half of his body during his performances. His many successful records include *Heartbreak Hotel* and *Don't be Cruel*, and he also appeared in films including *Loving You* and *G I Blues*. —see also ELVIS SIGHTING and see colour picture on page 554

press¹ /pres/ *v* **1** [T] to push firmly and steadily: *Press this button to start the engine.* | *I pressed a coin into the little girl's hand.* | *The little boy pressed his nose against the shop window.* **2** [T] to put weight onto (something) in order to crush, flatten, shape, pack tightly, or get liquid out: *To make wine, first you must press the grapes.* | *pressed flowers* | *Before cooking, the pastry must be pressed flat and thin.* **3** [T] to give (a garment) a smooth surface and a sharp fold by using a hot iron; *IRON*² **4** [T] to take hold of (a part of the body) firmly as a sign of friendship, love, pity, etc.: *He pressed my hand warmly when we met.* **5** [I+adv/prep] to push one's way roughly, esp. in a mass: *Crowds pressed round her trying to get her autograph.* **6** [T+obj+to-v] to urge strongly: *She pressed her guests to stay a little longer.* —see also PRESS for **7** [T] to continue to try to gain acceptance of: *In view of their limited financial resources, we shall not press our claim for compensation.* (=we shall stop making the claim) | *I suggested we make a joint appeal, but he didn't seem very keen, so I didn't press the point.* **8** [I] *infml* to make quick action or attention necessary: *Work presses/Time presses* (=there is not much time), *so I can't stop to talk.* —see also PRESS on, PRESSING¹ **9** [T] *tech* to make a copy of (a GRAMOPHONE record, etc.) —see also PRESSING² **10** **press home:** **a** to get the greatest possible effect from (an advantage) **b** to continue (an attack) forcefully and successfully **11** **press the flesh** *infml humor* to shake hands. This phrase is often used in connection with political CANDIDATES, who meet many people and try to influence them in the weeks before an election: *I've had a busy day walking round the ward, kissing babies, pressing the flesh, and all that.*

press (sbdy.) **for** sthg. *phr v* [T] to demand urgently (from): *I don't know whether to accept this new job, and the firm is pressing (me) for a decision.*

press on *phr v* **1** [I (with)] also **press ahead**—to continue with determination or without delay: *Let's press on with our work.* | *Shall we stop here or press on to the next town?* **2** [T] (**press sthg. on sbdy.**) to force (someone) to accept (something): *He tried to press another drink on me.*

press² *n* **1** [(the) U+sing./pl. v] (writers and reporters working for) newspapers and magazines, and usu. also the news-gathering services of radio and television: *The minister invited the press to a meeting to explain his actions.* | *It's vital to protect the freedom of the press.* (=their freedom to print news and fair opinion without being stopped by the government) | *a press photographer* —see also GUTTER PRESS **2** [S] treatment of the stated kind given by newspapers, etc. when reporting about a person or event: *The play had a good press* (=the newspapers said it was good) *but very few people went to see it.* **3** [C] a PRINTING PRESS: *Stop the presses! A piece of late news has come in.* | *When does the paper go to press?* (=start being printed) | *The new book is in (the) press.* (=being printed) —see also STOP PRESS **4** [C] (*usu. cap.*) a business

- for printing (and sometimes also for selling) books, magazines, etc.: *the Clarendon Press* **5** [S] an act of pushing steadily against something small: *Give the button another press.* **6** [C] *infml* an act of making a garment smooth with a hot iron: *Could you give my trousers a quick press?* **7** [C] (*often in comb.*) an apparatus used for putting weight onto something: *She keeps her tennis racket in a press to stop it from getting out of shape.* | *a wine/garlic press* —see also TROUSER PRESS
- press**³ *v* **press someone/something into service** to use someone or something in a time of urgent need, even though they may not be completely suitable
- press a-gen-cy** /'pɪs.ə.nts/ *n* the office or business of a press agent
- press a-gent** /'pɪs.ə.nts/ *n* a person whose job is to keep an actor, musician, sportsman, etc., in favourable public notice by supplying photographs, interesting facts, etc., to newspapers
- Press As-so-ci-a-tion** /'pɪs.ə.nts.ə.ʃən/ (*abbrev. PA*) an organization which provides news about Britain to newspapers and radio and television stations in other countries, and which informs industry and the government of the news as it happens
- press bar-on** /'pɪs.bə.rən/ *n* esp. *BrE infml* sometimes derog a person who owns and controls one or more important national newspapers. In Britain, Robert Maxwell was, and Rupert Murdoch is, sometimes described as a press baron. —compare DRUG BARON
- press box** /'pɪs.bɒks/ *n* an (enclosed) space at some outdoor events, esp. sports events, that is kept for the use of newspaper reporters
- Press Com-plaints Com-mis-sion** /'pɪs.kəm.plənts.kəm.ɪʃən/ [*the*] a British organization which is supposed to make sure that the British PRESS¹ (1) keeps high professional standards, and which deals with complaints about the press
- press con-fer-ence** /'pɪs.kən.fər.ens/ also **news conference**— *n* a meeting during which an important person gives a statement to news reporters or answers questions
- press corps** /'pɪs.kɔːps/ *n* **press corps** a group of news reporters from different newspapers who gather for a NEWS CONFERENCE, where something important is happening, or where an important statement will be made
- Press Coun-cil** /'pɪs.kəʊn.səl/ [*the*] a British organization which dealt with complaints about the PRESS¹ (1). It was replaced in 1991 by the Press Complaints Commission.
- press cut-ting** /'pɪs.kʌt.tɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a CUTTING¹ (2)
- pressed** /prest/ *adj* **1** [F+for] not having enough: *I'm pressed for time this morning so it will have to wait until this afternoon.* **2** (of food) given a firm shape by being packed into a container so as to be easily cut for eating cold: *pressed duck*
- press gal-le-ry** /'pɪs.gæl.ər.i/ *n* (esp. in the British parliament) a space with seats above or at the back of the main level of a hall, kept for the use of news reporters
- press-gang**¹ /'pres.gæŋ/ *n* (in former times, esp. in the 18th century) a group of sailors employed to take men away by force and make them join the navy
- pressgang**² *v* [T (into)] *infml* (esp. of a group) to force (someone) to do something unwillingly: *I was press-ganged into playing in the charity cricket match.*
- press-ing**¹ /'pres.ɪŋ/ *adj* **1** that must have attention, action, etc., now; urgent: *Pressing business matters prevented him from taking a holiday.* **2** asking for something strongly, in a way that is hard to refuse; INSISTENT: *a pressing invitation* — *~ly adv*
- pressing**² *n* **1** an act of pressing: *olive oil from the first cold pressing* **2** any of the copies of a GRAMOPHONE record made at any one time
- press-man** /'pres.mæn/ *n* -men /men/ *BrE infml* a newspaper reporter
- press of-fice** /'pɪs.ə.fɪs/ *n* an office of an organization, esp. a government department, from which information about the organization's activities is given to the press, often in the form of a **press release** (=a written description of a news story designed to encourage newspapers to write about it) —**press officer** *n*
- press re-lease** /'pɪs.rɪ.leɪs/ *n* a prepared statement given out to news services and newspapers
- press sec-re-ta-ry** /'pɪs.sek.rɪ.tər.i/ *n* a secretary to an important person or organization who gives news about them to newspapers
- press-stud** /'pɪs.stʌd/ *BrE*, also **popper** *infml*, esp. *BrE* || **snap fastener** *AmE*— *n* a small metal fastener for a garment, in which one part is pressed into a hollow in another —see picture at FASTENER
- press-up** /'pɪs.ʌp/ esp. *BrE* || **push-up** esp. *AmE*— *n* a form of exercise in which someone lies face down on the ground, keeping their back straight, and pushes their body up with their arms: *She does twenty press-ups every morning.*
- pres-sure**¹ /'preʃə/ *n* **1** [U] the action of putting force or weight onto something: *The pressure of the water turns this wheel, and this is used to make electric power.* **2** [C;U] the strength of this force: *These gas containers will burst at high pressures.* | *Low (atmospheric) pressure often brings rain.* | *a pressure of ten pounds to the square inch* | *a pressure gauge* **3** [U] forceful influence; strong persuasion: *He only agreed to do it under pressure from his parents.* [+to-v] *We're trying to put pressure on/bring pressure to bear on the government to change the law.* | *The government is coming under increasing pressure to change the law.* | *He only agreed to leave the country under pressure.* (=after being forcefully persuaded to do so) **4** [C;U] conditions in one's work, one's style of living, etc. that cause anxiety and difficulty: *I'd like to help out, but I really haven't got time—pressure of work, you know!* | *the pressures of modern life* | *He works best under pressure.* —see also BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH-PRESSURE
- pressure**² *v* [T (into)] esp. *AmE* for PRESSURIZE (1)
- pressure cook-er** /'pɪs.tʃʊk.ər/ *n* a tightly covered metal cooking pot in which food can be cooked very quickly by the pressure of hot steam —see picture at KITCHEN
- pressure group** /'pɪs.tʃʊp/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people that actively tries to influence public opinion and government action —compare INTEREST GROUP
- pressure point** /'pɪs.tʃʊp/ *n* **1** a point on the human body where a blood-carrying tube (ARTERY) runs near a bone, so that it can be closed off by pressing on it, for example to stop blood loss **2** a point used in ACUPRESSURE
- pres-sur-ize** also -ise *BrE* /'preʃəraɪz/ *v* [T] **1** [(into)] esp. *BrE* || **pressure** esp. *AmE*— to (try to) make (someone) do something by using strong or unfair influence: *The government have pressurized the farmers into producing more milk.* [+obj+to-v] *I'm being pressurized to make a statement.* **2** to control the air pressure inside (something) so that it does not become much lower than the pressure on Earth: *an aircraft's pressurized cabin* —**ization** /'preʃəraɪ'zeɪʃən/ -rə'zeɪ-/ *n* [U]
- Pres-tel** /'prestel/ *tdmk* a service provided by British Telecom which carries information (e.g. weather, news, sports results) on television to people who have paid for this service. The information is received by calling it up on the telephone.
- pres-ti-di-gi-ta-tion** /'prestɪdɪdʒɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] *humor or fml* the performing of tricks by quick clever use of the hands; conjuring (CONJURE)
- pres-tige**¹ /pre'stiːʒ/ *n* [U] general respect or admiration felt for someone or something because they have (or are connected with) high quality, social influence, success, etc.: *The old universities of Oxford and Cambridge still have a lot of prestige.* | *the prestige conferred in many cultures by having a professional job, such as that of a doctor or lawyer*
- prestige**² *adj* [A] *usu. apprec or derog* causing admiration because of being an outward sign of wealth or success: *Some people say the country should spend its money on really important things, not on prestige developments like new airports.* | *a prestige car* (=big, expensive, and important-looking)
- pres-ti-gious** /pre'stɪdʒəs/ -'stɪː-, -'stɪ-/ *adj* *usu. apprec* having or bringing prestige: *a very prestigious address in the best part of town*
- pres-to** /'prestəʊ/ *n, adj, adv* -**tos** (a piece of music) played very quickly —see also HEY PRESTO
- Pres-ton** /'prestən/ a town in NW England, where the local government for Lancashire is based
- pre-stressed** /'priː'strest/ *adj* (of CONCRETE²) strengthened by having stretched wires put inside
- Prest-wick** /'prestwɪk/ a town in SW Scotland
- pre-su-ma-bly** /prɪ'zjuːməbli/ -'zuː-/ *adv* it may reasonably

be supposed that; probably: *If you've already eaten, you presumably won't want dinner.* | *Presumably you've read this notice.* (=I suppose/hope that you have)

pre-sume /prɪ'zju:m||-'zu:m/ *v* 1 [T] to take (something) as true or as a fact without direct proof but with some feeling of being certain; suppose: [+*(that)*] *John didn't say when he'd return, but I presume (that) he'll be back for dinner.* | *"Will he be back for dinner?" "I presume so."* [+*obj+to-v*] (*fml*) *From the way they talked I presumed them to be married.* 2 [T] to accept as true until proved untrue, esp. in a matter of law, justice, etc.: *We must presume innocence until we have evidence of guilt.* [+*(that)*] *We must presume they are innocent.* [+*obj+adj*] *The soldier was missing, presumed dead.* [+*obj+to-v*] *Anyone not replying within 28 days is presumed to have given up his or her claim.* 3 [I *usu. in questions and negatives*] *fml* to behave without enough respect or politeness; dare to do something which one has no right to do: *I don't wish to presume, sir, but don't you think you need a larger size?* [+*to-v*] *Are you presuming to tell me how to drive my car?* 4 [T] *fml* to be a reasonable sign or proof of; PRESUPPOSE: *An answer, by its nature, presumes a question.* 5 **Dr Livingstone, I presume** a phrase believed to have been used by Sir Henry Stanley when he found Dr Livingstone, an EXPLORER, who had been lost in Africa. The phrase is now sometimes used humorously. —see also DR LIVINGSTONE

presume on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to (try to) take unfair advantage of (someone's kindness or connection with oneself): *I feel it would be presuming on our rather brief friendship to ask him to lend me that much money.*

pre-sump-tion /prɪ'zʌmpʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U] an act of supposing **b law** an act of supposing that is reasonable and sensible: *the presumption of innocence* 2 [U] *fml derog* disrespectful behaviour that shows too high an opinion of oneself

pre-sump-tive /prɪ'zʌmptɪv/ *adj* [A] *fml, esp. law* based on a reasonable belief; probable: *presumptive proof* —see also HEIR PRESUMPTIVE —~*ly adv*

pre-sump-tu-ous /prɪ'zʌmptʃuəs/ *adj derog* showing disrespect towards others as a result of having too high an opinion of oneself —~*ly adv*

pre-sup-pose /,prɪ:sə'pəʊz/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *fml* 1 to suppose or take to be true in advance and without proof; ASSUME: [+*that*] *All these plans presuppose that the bank will be willing to lend us the money.* 2 to show that (that stated thing) must exist: *A child presupposes a mother.*

pre-sup-po-si-tion /,prɪ:səpə'zɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an example of) supposing that something is true without proof: [+*that*] *Your judgment of the case is based on the presupposition that the witness is telling the truth.*

pre-tence || also **-tense** *AmE* /prɪ'tens||'prɪ:tens/ *n* 1 [S;U] a false appearance intended either to deceive people or as a game: *He didn't like the food, but as he was a guest he made a pretence of eating* (=pretended to eat) *some of it.* | *She isn't really ill; it's only pretence.* [+*that*] *How much longer are you going to keep up this pretence that you're ill?* 2 [U+*to;usu. in questions and negatives*] a claim to possess some desirable quality: *a simple man, with little pretence to education* —see also FALSE PRETENCES

pre-tend¹ /prɪ'tend/ *v* 1 [I;T] to give an appearance of (something that is not true), with the intention of deceiving: *She wasn't really crying; she was only pretending.* | *He often pretends deafness when you ask him an awkward question!* [+*(that)*] *to-v*] *She pretended she didn't know me/pretended not to know me when we met in the street.* 2 [I;T *obj*] (*usu. of a child*) to imagine as a game: [+*(that)*] *to-v*] *Let's pretend we're on the moon/pretend to be on the moon.* 3 [T+*to-v; obj; usu. in questions and negatives*] to make a claim, esp. one that cannot be supported: *I don't pretend to understand these technical terms.* (=I admit that I do not understand them)

pretend to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to claim to possess: *I don't pretend to much expertise in these matters, but ...*

pretend² *adj infml* (used esp. by or to children) imagined; imaginary: *That's my pretend friend.* | *a pretend monster*

pre-tend-ed /prɪ'tendɪd/ *adj often derog* false or unreal in spite of seeming true or real; insincere: *pretended sympathy*

pre-tend-er /prɪ'tendə/ *n* [(*to*)] a person who makes a claim

(which is doubtful or not proved) to some high position, such as to be the rightful king

pre-ten-sion /prɪ'tenʃən/ *n* 1 [C (*to*) *often pl.*] a claim to possess skill, qualities, etc.: *I make no pretensions to skill as an artist, but I enjoy painting.* | (*fig.*) *a house of modest pretensions* (=not very large and expensive-looking) 2 [U] *fml* pretentiousness

pre-ten-tious /prɪ'tenfəs/ *adj* claiming (in an unpleasant way) to have importance, artistic value, or social rank that one does not really possess: *one of those pretentious films that claim to be "art"* —opposite **unpretentious** —~*ly adv* —~*ness n* [U]

pret-er-ite, -it /'pretərɪt/ *n, adj* [*the*] *tech* (a tense or verb form) that expresses a past action or condition: *"Sang" is the preterite (form) of "sing".*

pre-ter-nat-u-ral /,prɪ:tə'nætʃərəl•||-tər-/ *adj fml* 1 beyond what is usual: *a warrior of preternatural strength* 2 strange; beyond what is natural or can be explained naturally: *In former times people believed that thunder and lightning were signs of preternatural forces.* —~*ly adv* : *preternaturally strong*

pre-text /'prɪ:tekst/ *n* [(*of, for*)] a reason given for an action in order to hide the real intention; excuse: *He came to the house under/on the pretext of seeing Mr Jackson, but he really wanted to see Jackson's daughter.* | *The riots were used by the government as a pretext for banning all political activity.* —see EXCUSE² (USAGE)

Pre-to-ri-a /prɪ'tɔ:riə/ a city and the ADMINISTRATIVE capital of South Africa

pret-ti-fy /'prɪtɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] *usu. derog* to make pretty without serious intention or effect

pret-ty¹ /'prɪti/ *adj* 1 *apprec* (esp. of a woman, a child, or a small thing) pleasing to look at, listen to, etc.; charming and attractive without being very beautiful or important-looking: *She looks much prettier with long hair than with short hair.* | *a pretty dress* | *What a pretty little garden!* —see BEAUTIFUL (USAGE) 2 [A] *derog* (of a young man) graceful and/or charming but rather EF-FEMINATE 3 [A] *derog, rather old-fash* not nice; displeasing: *It's a pretty state of affairs when I can't afford the price of a pint of beer any more!* —~*ily adv* —~*iness n* [U]

pretty² *adv infml* 1 quite, though not completely; rather: *It's pretty cold today.* | *I'm pretty sure he'll say yes.* 2 *very*: *This work of yours is a pretty poor effort. You'd better do it again.* 3 **pretty much** also **pretty well, pretty nearly**—very nearly; almost: *"How is she feeling today?" "Pretty much the same as yesterday."* | *It's pretty well impossible to travel over these mountains in winter.* —see also **be sitting pretty** (SIT (12))

pretty pen-ny /,prɪ'peni/ *n* [S] *infml* a rather large amount of money: *That car cost a pretty penny, I can tell you!*

pretty-pret-ty /'prɪ'preti/ *adj infml derog, esp. BrE* pretty in a silly or weak way

pret-zel /'pretsəl/ *n* 1 a hard salty BISCUIT or CRACKER baked in the shape of a stick or a loose knot, very popular in the US: *beer and pretzels* 2 *AmE* also **soft pretzel**—a salty bread baked in the shape of a knot and eaten while warm. It is often bought at a sports event or from a person selling them on the street.

pre-vail /prɪ'veɪl/ *v* [I] *fml* 1 [(*among, in*)] to (continue to) exist or be widespread: *A belief in magic still prevails among some tribes.* 2 [(*against, over*)] to gain control or victory; win a fight: *Justice has prevailed; the guilty man has been punished.*

prevail upon/on sbdy. *phr v* [T+*obj+to-v*] *fml* to persuade: *I'm late for my train — could I prevail upon you to drive me to the station?*

pre-vail-ing /prɪ'veɪlɪŋ/ *adj* [A] 1 (of a wind) that blows over an area most of the time: *The prevailing winds here are from the west.* 2 *fml* existing or most widely accepted at a particular time or in a particular place; CURRENT: *the prevailing fashion* | *the prevailing economic climate*

prev-a-lent /'prevələnt/ *adj* [(*among, in*)] *fml* existing commonly, generally, or widely in a particular place or at a particular time: *Eye diseases are prevalent in some tropical countries.* —~*ly adv* —~*lence n* [U]

pre-var-i-cate /prɪ'væɪdʒeɪt/ *v* [I] *fml* 1 to try to hide the truth by not answering questions clearly or completely truthfully 2 *euph* to tell lies —~*cator n* —~*cation* /prɪ-,væɪdʒeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pre-vent /pri'vent/ *v* [T (from)] to stop (something) happening or stop (someone) doing something: *These rules are intended to prevent accidents.* [+obj+v-ing] *What can we do to prevent this disease spreading?* | *Unless we get more funding we'll be prevented from finishing our experimental programme.* — ~ **able** *adj*: *preventable cancer*

pre-ven-tion /pri'venʃən/ [U] the act of preventing: *the prevention of crime/disease*

Prevention of Ter-ror-is-m Act /-... -'.... -/ [the] a British law passed in 1989 giving the army, police, and government more powers to deal with TERRORISTS, such as being able to prevent someone who is thought to be or have been involved in terrorist activities from entering the country. It is used mainly against people who are thought to be in the IRA.

pre-ven-tive /pri'ventiv/ also **pre-ven-ta-tive** /-tətiv/- *n*, *adj* (something) that helps to prevent something undesirable: *The government is taking preventative measures to safeguard law and order.* — ~ **ly** *adv*

preventive de-ten-tion /-... -'.../ *n* [U] BrE tech imprisonment for a long time for habitual criminals over 30 years old

preventive medi-cine /-... -'.../ *n* [U] medicine that helps prevent illness, e.g. VACCINATION. This expression is also used to describe measures taken to improve public health (e.g. providing pure water), and to educate people about personal health (e.g. eating habits, physical exercise).

pre-view ¹ /'pri:vju:/ *n* [(of)] 1 a private showing of paintings, a cinema film, etc., before they are shown to the general public 2 a short description of something that will soon happen, esp. a film or television show soon to be shown: *I don't want to see it — I read the previews and they weren't very enthusiastic.* | *This book gives us a preview of life in the 25th century.* — see also SNEAK PREVIEW 3 AmE short pieces from a film or television programme which are shown sometime before it as an ADVERTISEMENT — see TRAILER

preview ² *v* [T] to give a preview of (a play, film, etc.)

Prev-in /'prevɪn/, **An-dré** /'ɒndreɪ||'ɑ:n-/ (1929–) an American CONDUCTOR (=a person who directs the playing of a group of musicians), COMPOSER, and piano player, who, through his television appearances, brought CLASSICAL music to a wider public. He was made Conductor LAUREATE of the London Symphony Orchestra in 1992.

pre-vi-ous /'pri:vɪəs/ *adj* 1 [A] happening or existing before the one mentioned: *On Sunday he denied all knowledge of it, but on the previous day (=Saturday) he'd admitted to me that he knew all about it.* | *Have you had any previous experience of this kind of work?* | *on a previous occasion* — see AGO (USAGE), LAST (USAGE) 2 [F] now rare acting too soon; PREMATURE: *He was a little previous in thanking her for something she had not yet given him.* 3 **previous to** *fml* before; PRIOR to: *Women are now in a majority on the committee, although previous to 1976 there were no women members at all.* — ~ **ly** *adv*: *This record was previously held by Sebastian Coe.*

pre-vi-sion /,pri:vɪʒən/ *n* [C;U (of)] *fml* (a case of) knowledge of something before it happens

pre-war /,pri:wɔ:'r-/ *adj*, *adv* (happening or existing) before a war, esp. the First or Second World War: *conditions in pre-war Europe* — compare POSTWAR

prey ¹ /preɪ/ *n* [U] 1 an animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal: *lions pursuing their prey* | (fig.) *Gullible people like him are easy prey for/to clever salesmen.* (=can easily be deceived by them) | (fig., rather *fml*) *Left on her own, she was/fell prey to* (=was troubled by) *all sorts of strange fears.* 2 habit or way of life based on killing and eating other animals: *The tiger is a beast of prey.* | *The eagle is a bird of prey.*

prey ² *v*

prey on/upon sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] 1 (of an animal) to hunt and eat as prey: *Cats prey on birds and mice.* 2 (of unhappiness, troubles, etc.) to trouble greatly: *This problem has been preying on my mind all day.* 3 *derog* (of a person) to live by getting money from (someone who is weak, trusting, helpless, etc.) by influence, deceit, etc.: *He's very charming and preys on rich widows.*

prez-zie /'prezi/ *n infml* a present

price ¹ /praɪs/ *n* 1 an amount of money for which a thing is offered, sold, or bought: *What price did you pay for the*

house? | *What is the price of this suit?* | *Eggs are selling at a high price.* | *House prices are rising/going up.* | *big price reductions* | (fig.) *Isn't bad health a high price to pay for the pleasure you get from smoking?* | (fig.) *Good friendship is above/beyond/without price.* (=cannot be bought) *You can't put a price on it.* (=because it is too valuable) | (fig.) *Everyone has their price.* (=will accept a BRIBE if it is large enough) 2 (in risking money, e.g. on a horse in a race) the difference in amount between the money risked and the sum of the money one will get if one wins; ODDS: *"What price are you offering on 'Lucky Shot'?" "Seven to four."* — see also STARTING PRICE 3 **a price on someone's head** a reward for catching or killing someone: *The escaped prisoner fled across the border because he knew there was a price on his head.* 4 **at a price** for a lot of money: *You can buy excellent wine here — at a price!* 5 **not at any price** not on any condition, even if favourable: *I wouldn't travel by air at any price.* — see also ASKING PRICE, CLOSING PRICE, COST PRICE, LIST PRICE, MARKET PRICE; see COST (USAGE)

price ² *v* [T] 1 [+obj+adv/prep; often pass.] to fix the price of (something for sale): *The new car is priced very competitively.* (=at a price that makes people willing to buy it) | *high-priced goods* | *This hat is priced at £27, madam.* 2 *infml* to find out the price of: *I have been pricing radios in the London shops.* 3 **price out of the market** to make the price of (oneself or one's goods) so high that people are unwilling to pay: *You'll price yourself out of the market if you ask that much.*

Price, Le-on-tyne /li'ɒnti:n, 'li:ən-||li'ɑ:n-/ (1927–) an American OPERA singer

price-fix-ing /'prɪ:fɪŋ/ *n* [U] 1 the setting of prices by the government 2 an agreement between two or more producers, sellers, etc. to fix the price of a product at a level favourable to them. In many countries, including Britain and the US, this is illegal.

price in-dex /'prɪ:ɪks/ *n* a system of numbers by which prices can be compared to a former level — see also RETAIL PRICE INDEX

price-less /'praɪsləs/ *adj* 1 of such a high value that it cannot be calculated: *a priceless collection of paintings* | *Good health is priceless.* — see VALUABLE (USAGE) 2 *infml* very ~ funny or laughably foolish

prices and in-comes pol-i-cy /'prɪsɪz -'ɪn:ks -'pɒli:si/ *n* a course of action taken by a government and intended to prevent prices and incomes increasing, in order to stop or limit INFLATION

price sup-port /'prɪ:səpɔ:t/ *n* the practice of keeping prices of a product or food at a fixed level, even though the price should go down or up, by giving the producer government money or having the government buy the product

price tag /'prɪ:tæg/ *n* 1 a small ticket put onto an article, showing its price 2 *infml* (esp. in newspapers) a fixed or stated price: *The government was asked to put a price tag on its new building plans.* (=say what they would cost)

price war /'prɪ:wɔ:/ *n* a period during which companies reduce the prices of their products or services to win a larger share of the market or get rid of competition: *Oil companies are entering a price war over the cost of unleaded fuel.*

Price Wa-ter-house /,praɪs 'wɔ:təhaʊs||-'wɔ:tər-, -'wɔ:z-/ an international firm of ACCOUNTANTS and MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

pric-ey, **pricy** /'praɪsi/ *adj* **pricier**, **priciest** *infml derog*, esp. BrE expensive: *These new cars are a bit pricey.* | *That shop's too pricey for me.* — **iness** *n* [U]

prick ¹ /prɪk/ *n* 1 a small sharp pain: *She felt a prick when the needle went into her finger.* | (fig.) *the pricks of conscience* (=uncomfortable thoughts because one knows one has done something wrong) 2 a small mark or hole made by pricking 3 a prickle 4 *taboo* the male sex organ; PENIS 5 *taboo derog sl* a stupid or very unpleasant man: *You stupid prick!* — see also PINPRICK, **kick against the pricks** (KICK¹ (6))

prick ² *v* 1 [T (with, on)] to make a very small hole in (one's) skin or surface of (something) with a sharp-pointed object: *When I was pruning the roses I pricked myself/my finger on a thorn.* 2 [I;T] to (cause to) feel a sensation of light sharp pain on the skin: *The pepper in the food pricked the back of his throat.* | (fig.) *Her conscience pricked her.* 3 **prick up its ears** (of an animal) to raise

the ears so as to listen attentively **4 prick up one's ears** (of a person) to listen carefully; be ready to hear information: *He pricked up his ears when they began to talk about him.*

prick sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T] to place (a young plant) in a hole specially made in the earth

prick·le ¹ /'prɪkəl/ *n* **1** [C] any of a number of small, esp. long and thin, sharp-pointed growths on the skin of some plants or animals: *a hedgehog's prickles* — see picture at HEDGEHOG **2** [(the) S] a pricking sensation on the skin

prickle ² *v* [I;T] to give or feel a pricking sensation: *This rough shirt prickles my skin.*

prick·ly /'prɪkli/ *adj* **1** covered with prickles: *prickly bushes* **2** that has or gives a pricking sensation: *prickly woollen underclothes* **3** *infml* difficult to deal with: *Nuclear defence policy is bound to be one of the prickliest issues at the party conference.* | *He's a prickly character.* (=easily made angry) — **liness** *n* [U]

prickly heat /,prɪkli 'hi:t/ *n* [U] an uncomfortable hot PRICKLY (2) condition of the skin with painful red spots, common in tropical countries

prickly pear /,prɪkli 'peə/ *n* (the roundish PRICKLY (1) eatable fruit of) a CACTUS with yellow flowers

pric·y /'praɪsi/ *adj* PRICEY

pride ¹ /praɪd/ *n* **1** [S;U (in)] (a feeling of) satisfaction or pleasure in what one can do or has done, or in someone or something connected with oneself: *They take great pride in their daughter, who is now a famous scientist.* **2** [U] reasonable self-respect; proper high opinion of oneself: *I think you hurt his pride by laughing at the way he speaks English.* **3** [U] *derog* too high an opinion of oneself because of one's position, wealth, abilities, etc. Pride is one of the Seven Deadly Sins according to the Christian religion: *Pride was his downfall.* (=caused his ruin) — see also SEVEN DEADLY SINS **4** [S (of)] the most valuable person or thing: *This fine picture is the pride of my collection.* | *My garden is my pride and joy.* (=something that I think has great value) **5** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group (of lions) **6** *pride goes before a fall* saying someone who behaves too proudly will soon suffer a defeat or misfortune

pride ² *v* [T] **pride oneself on** to feel satisfied with oneself about: *She prided herself on her ability to speak eight languages/on knowing eight languages.*

Pride and Prej·u·dice /,praɪd ənd 'preɪdʒ/ a book by Jane Austen in which the most important characters are the Bennett family and Mr Darcy

pride of place /,praɪd əv 'pleɪs/ *n* [U (in)] *esp. BrE* the highest or best position: *Amongst all our playwrights, Shakespeare has/takes pride of place.* (=is considered the best) | *A poster of Elvis Presley had pride of place in her room.*

priest /praɪst/ *n* **1** (in the Christian church, and esp. in the Roman Catholic Church) a specially trained person, usu. a man, who performs various religious duties and ceremonies for a group of worshippers **2** also **priest·ess** /'praɪstəs/ *fem.* — a specially-trained person with religious duties and responsibilities in certain non-Christian religions — see also HIGH PRIEST

priest·hood /'praɪsthud/ *n* [(the) U] **1** the office or position of a priest: *He entered the priesthood.* (=became a priest) **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] all priests, usu. of a particular religion or country

Priest·ley /'praɪstli/, J B (1894–1984) a British writer and broadcaster who took a humorous view of English life in his NOVELS, e.g. *The Good Companions*. His many plays include *Dangerous Corner*. He also wrote about literature, travel, and society and was noted for his radio talks during the Second World War.

priest·ly /'praɪstli/ *adj fml* of a priest: *his priestly duties*

prig /prɪg/ *n derog* someone who is very careful about obeying rules of correct behaviour and therefore thinks him- or herself morally better than other people — ~ **gish** *adj* — ~ **gishness** *n* [U]

prim /prɪm/ *adj -mm-* **1** *usu. derog* (of a person) very formal or exact in behaviour, and easily shocked by anything rude: *She's much too prim and proper to enjoy such a rude joke.* **2** *neat: prim little blouses* — ~ **ly** *adv* — ~ **ness** *n* [U]

Pri·ma /'praɪmə/ a monthly women's magazine, which has articles on fashion, cookery, etc.

pri·ma bal·le·ri·na /,praɪmə 'bæləriːnə/ *n* the main woman dancer in a BALLET company

pri·ma·cy /'praɪməsi/ *n* [U] **1** [(of, over)] *fml* the state, quality, or position of being first in position, importance, etc.: *We should insist on the primacy of practical skill over theoretical knowledge.* **2** the position of a PRIMATE²

prima don·na /,praɪmə 'dɒnə/ -'dɑːnə/ *n* **1** the main woman singer in an OPERA company **2** *derog* an excitable self-important person who is always changing her or his mind and expects everyone to do as she or he wishes: *He's a bit of a prima donna, which makes him hard to work with.*

pri·mae·val /praɪ'miːvəl/ *adj esp. BrE* for PRIMEVAL

pri·ma fa·cie /,praɪmə 'feɪʃi/ -'fæ/ *adj, adv* [A *no comp.*] *Lat, esp. law* based on what seems to be true, even though it may be disproved later: *Unless there is a prima facie case against him, the trial cannot proceed.*

pri·mal /'praɪmə/ *adj fml* **1** [A] (as if) belonging to the earliest time in the world; original: *man's primal innocence* — compare PRIMORDIAL **2** PRIMARY (1): *a primal need*

primal scream ther·a·py /,praɪmə 'skriːmθəpi/ also **primal therapy** /'praɪmə 'θerəpi/, **scream therapy** — *n* [S] a form of treatment for mental disorders in which it is thought that if a person can be taken back to a much earlier time of his or her life and re-experience very difficult emotions and SCREAM about them, they will be able to manage better in their lives. People who do not take this seriously sometimes make jokes about it.

pri·ma·ri·ly /'praɪməri/ -'meri/ *adv fml* mainly; chiefly: *Ten years ago it was primarily a fishing village, but now it's a thriving tourist centre.*

pri·ma·ry ¹ /'praɪməri/ -'meri/ *adj* **1** chief; main; PRINCIPAL: *The primary purpose of his visit is to improve trading relations.* | *a matter of primary importance* **2** [A] also **elementary** *AmE* (of education, a teacher, etc.) for children between 5 and 11 years old — compare SECONDARY (1) **3** [A] earliest in time or order of development: *In the primary stages of their civilization, they had no metal tools.*

primary ² *n* (esp. in the US) an election at which the members of a political party in a particular area vote for the person that they would like to see as their party's CANDIDATE for a political office

primary col·our /,praɪmə 'kʌlə/ *n* any of three colours (red, yellow, and blue) from which all other colours can be made by mixing

primary health care /,praɪmə 'helθkeə/ also **primary med·i·cal care** /,praɪmə 'medɪkəl keə/ — *n* [U] the first kind of official medical care which a person receives. In Britain and the US, this is usu. care from the local or family doctor (GP) or the CASUALTY department of a hospital: *Training programmes for doctors ensure that advice about a healthy diet and lifestyle will be available from primary health care.*

primary school /'praɪmə 'skʊl/ *n* **1** *BrE* a school for children between 5 and 11 years old in England and Wales, often divided into an INFANT SCHOOL (5–7) and a JUNIOR SCHOOL (7–11) — compare SECCNDARY SCHOOL and see also extra information on page 408 **2** *AmE* an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

primary stress /,praɪmə 'stres/ also **primary ac·cent** /,praɪmə 'æksnt/ — *n* [C;U] *tech* the strongest force (STRESS) given in speech to part of a compound or long word, and shown in this dictionary by the mark ' : *In the word "primary", the primary stress falls on the first syllable ("pri-").*

pri·mate ¹ /'praɪmeɪt/ *n* a member of the most highly developed group of MAMMALS, which includes human beings, monkeys, and related animals

pri·mate ² /'praɪmət/ *n* (often *cap.*) a priest with the highest office in esp. the Church of England, e.g. the Archbishop of Canterbury is called the **Primate of All England**

prime ¹ /praɪm/ *n* **1** [(the) S] the state or time of someone's or something's greatest perfection, strength, or activity: *He was about 40 years old, and in the prime of life.* | *She is still good-looking, but she's past her prime.* | *Many young soldiers have been cut off in their prime.* (=killed in battle while still young) **2** [C] *tech* a PRIME NUMBER

prime ² *adj* **1** [A] first in position or importance; chief: *A prime reason for our economic decline is lack of investment.* | *This is a matter of prime importance.* **2** [A] of the very best quality or kind: *This is a prime* (=very clear)

example of the waste I've been talking about. | a succulent piece of prime beef **3** *tech* being a prime number: 7 and 13 are prime, but 12 isn't. **4** connected with a standard of meat in the US, set by the FDA: *a roast labelled prime beef*

prime³ *v* [T] **1** to cover (a surface) with a first spreading of esp. paint, as a base for the main painting —see also PRIMER¹ (1) **2** [(with)] to instruct in advance, esp. in how to ask or answer difficult questions: *The witness at the trial had been carefully primed by defence lawyers.* **3** to put explosive powder into (a gun of the old-fashioned type) so that it can be fired —see also PRIMER¹ (2) **4** [(with)] to prepare (a machine) for working by filling it with water, oil, etc. **5** **prime the pump** *infml* to encourage the growth of an inactive business or industry by putting money into it

prime cost /, - ' / *n* [U] the actual cost of producing an article, as opposed to money spent on selling it, on renting factories, etc. —compare OVERHEADS

prime me-rid-i-an /, - '... / [*the*] the imaginary line drawn from north to south on the earth, which passes through Greenwich, England, and from which east and west are measured on a map in degrees

prime min-is-ter /, - '... / also **P M** *infml* — *n* (often caps.) the chief minister and leader of the government in certain countries esp. those with a parliamentary system of government. In Britain, the prime minister is the leader of the political party which has the most members in the House of Commons and is an elected member of the House. If the prime minister loses support in the House of Commons, they are expected to RESIGN, as Margaret THATCHER did in 1990. —see also extra information on page 412 and see colour picture on page 950 — *~ship n*

Prime Minister's question time /, - ... '... / a certain period of time during each week (on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons) when the British Prime Minister must be in the House of Commons to answer questions from other members of that House. During Prime Minister's question time strong, often very noisy, disagreement is expressed between the Prime Minister and the Opposition, and it is often broadcast on radio and television. Some people disapprove of the way Members of Parliament shout and interrupt each other during this time, although it is probably not typical of the usual work of Parliament.

prime mov-er /, - '... / *n* **1** *tech* a natural force, such as wind or moving water, which can be used directly or to produce a more useful form of power **2** [(of, in)] a person or thing that has great influence in the development of something important

prime num-ber /, - '... / also **prime** — *n* *tech* a number that can be divided exactly only by itself and the number one: *23 is a prime number.*

prim-er¹ /'praɪmə/ *n* **1** [C;U] a paint or other substance for spreading over the bare surface of wood, metal, etc. before the main painting —see also PRIME³ (1) **2** [C] a tube containing explosive, used to fire a gun, explode a bomb, etc. —see also PRIME³ (3)

prim-er² /'praɪmə/ 'primər/ *n* *old-fash* a simple beginner's book in a school subject

prime rate /' - , / *n* the lowest rate of interest at which money can be borrowed at a particular time and place, offered by banks to certain borrowers: *US prime rates are edging downwards.* —compare BASE RATE, DISCOUNT RATE

prime rib /, - ' / also **prime fore rib** /, - '... /, **fore rib** — *n* [U] an expensive piece of BEEF which is usu. roasted (ROAST¹)

prime time /' - , / *n* [U] *esp. AmE* PEAK TIME

pri-me-val also -mae- *esp. BrE* /praɪ'mi:vəl/ *adj* **1** very ancient; having been in existence for a very long time: *primeval forests* **2** of the earliest period in the existence of something, such as the Earth, the universe, etc.: *Primeval clouds of gas formed themselves into stars.*

prim-i-tive¹ /'prɪmɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** [A] of the earliest stage of development, esp. of life or of human beings: *Primitive man made himself primitive tools from sharp stones and animal bones. | primitive art on the walls of caves* **2** simple; roughly made or done; not greatly developed or improved: *Small seashells were often used as a primitive kind of money.* **3** *derog* old-fashioned and inconvenient:

primitive living conditions, without electricity or running water — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

primitive² *n* **1** a painter, SCULPTOR, etc. of the time before the Renaissance: *an Italian primitive* **2** a modern painter who paints simple and rather flat-looking pictures

pri-mo-gen-i-ture /,praɪməʊ'dʒenɪtʃə/ *n* [U] *tech* the system according to which property owned by a father goes after his death to the eldest son

pri-mor-di-al /praɪ'mɔ:diəl||-ɔ:r-/ *adj fml* existing from or at the beginning (of time): *Scientists used to believe that all the stars developed from a primordial mass of gases.* — *~compare PRIMAL* (1) — *~ly adv*

primordial soup /, - '... ' / *n* [S] *infml* the mixture of substances, gases, etc. thought to have existed before the BIG BANG (=the explosion that began the universe)

primp /prɪmp/ *v* [I;T] to do one's hair, put on MAKE-UP, dress carefully, etc., so that one looks nice (used esp. of women): *She's primping in front of the mirror upstairs.*

prim-rose /'prɪmrəʊz/ *n* **1** [C] (a flower of) a common wild plant that produces light yellow flowers in the spring **2** [U] also **primrose yel-low** /, - '... / — a light yellow colour **3** **primrose path** *lit* a way of life full of physical pleasure but damaging to the soul

prim-u-la /'prɪmjələ/ *n* a plant of the primrose family which is grown in gardens for its brightly coloured flowers

pri-mus /'praɪməs/ also **primus stove** /' - '... / — *n* *tdmk* an oil-burning metal apparatus for cooking, heating water, etc., that can be easily carried about

prince /prɪns/ *n* **1** (often cap.) a son or other near male relation of a king or queen: *Prince Rupert* **2** (often cap.) a ruler of a usu. small country: *Prince Rainier of Monaco* | *In former times parts of India were ruled by princes.* **3** [(among, of) usu. sing.] *lit or pomp* a very great, successful, or powerful man of the stated kind: *the merchant princes of Venice*

Prince¹, **The** a book by Machiavelli which discusses the importance of the state and how a ruler should use any means possible to preserve it —see also MACHIAVELLI

Prince² (1958–) an American singer and writer of popular music whose songs include *Dirty Minds*, and *Controversy*. Prince was one of the most successful popular music singers of the 1980s, though his songs were considered shocking by some people.

Prince Albert see Prince ALBERT

Prince Andrew see Prince ANDREW

Prince Charles see Prince CHARLES —see picture at ROYAL WEDDING

Prince Charm-ing /, - '... / *n* *infml or humor* a man who as a lover fulfils the dreams of a young girl (from the story of Cinderella in which Prince Charming was the perfect answer to Cinderella's dreams) —see CINDERELLA and see colour picture on page 357

prince con-sort /, - '... / *n* **princes consort** /, - '... / (often caps.) a special title sometimes given to the husband of a ruling queen, esp. to Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria of Britain —compare QUEEN CONSORT

prince-dom /'prɪnsdəm/ *n* *fml* a country ruled by a PRINCE (2); PRINCIPALITY

Prince Edward see Prince EDWARD

Prince Ed-ward Is-land /, - '... ,... / a PROVINCE in SE Canada that is an island in the Gulf of St Lawrence

Prince Henry see Prince HENRY

prince-ly /'prɪnsli/ *adj* **1** of a PRINCE (1,2): *the princely courts of Europe* **2** *fml* *apprec* fine; splendid; generous: *a princely gift* | *He offered us a princely sum* (=a lot of money) for it.

Prince of Dark-ness /, - '... / [*the*] poet SATAN

Prince of Peace /, - '... / *n* [*the*] poet CHRIST

Prince of Wales /, - '... / [*the*] a title given to the first son of a British king or queen. Prince Charles was given this title in a ceremony at Caernarvon Castle in 1969 —see also Prince CHARLES

Prince Philip see Prince PHILIP

Prince Re-gent /, - '... / [*the*] the son of George III of Britain who acted as king from 1811 to 1820 because his father was mad. This period in British history is known as the

Regency. The Prince Regent later became King George IV.

Princes in the Tower /,prɪnsɪz ðə 'təʊə/ [the +P] the boy king Edward V and his brother Richard who were murdered in 1483 in the Tower of London

prin-cess /,prɪn'ses-||'prɪnsəs/ *n* (often *cap.*) 1 a daughter or other near female relation of a king or queen: *Princess Anne* 2 the wife of a PRINCE (1,2): *Princess Diana*

Princess and the Pea /,prɪnsɪs ðə 'piː/ *The* a story by Hans Andersen in which any woman wishing to marry a particular prince must sleep on 20 MATTRESSES under which there is a PEA (=small hard round green vegetable). Only the real princess is so delicate that she feels the pea and cannot sleep.

Princess Anne see PRINCESS ANNE

Princess Diana also **Princess Di** *infml*— see PRINCESS DIANA

Princess Margaret see PRINCESS MARGARET

Princess of Wales /,prɪnsɪs ðə 'weɪl/ [the] the wife of the Prince of Wales. Lady Diana Spencer became the Princess of Wales when she married Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, in 1981. —see also PRINCESS DIANA

Princess Royal /,prɪnsɪs 'rɔɪəl/ [the] a title given to the first daughter of a British king or queen. Princess Anne was given this title by her mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in 1987.

Princes Street /'prɪnsɪz 'striːt/ an important street in Edinburgh, Scotland, with many shops and banks

Prince-ton U-ni-ver-si-ty /,prɪnstən juːnɪˈvɜːsɪti||-3:r-/ one of the oldest (1746) and most respected American universities. Princeton, in Princeton, New Jersey, is one of the Ivy League. —see also IVY LEAGUE

Prince William see PRINCE WILLIAM

prin-ci-pal¹ /'prɪnsɪpəl/ *adj* [A] rather *fml* highest in importance or position; chief; main: *The Nile is one of the principal rivers of Africa.* | *my principal source of income* | *Our principal problem was lack of time.* —see also PRINCIPALLY

principal² *n* 1 [C] (often *cap.*) the head of some universities, colleges, and schools 2 [S] *tech* an amount of money lent, put into a business, etc., and on which interest is paid 3 [C often *pl.*] a leading performer in a play, group of musicians, etc. 4 [C often *pl.*] *fml* a person for whom someone else acts as a representative, esp. in a piece of business: *I will have to consult my principals before I can give you an answer on that.*

principal boy /,prɪnsɪpəl 'bɔɪ/ *n* *BrE* the chief male character in a PANTOMIME, usu. played by a young woman

prin-ci-pal-i-ty /,prɪnsɪpəlɪti/ *n* a country ruled by a PRINCE (2), or from which he takes his title

Principality [the] *BrE* *pomp* Wales

prin-ci-pally /'prɪnsɪpli/ *adv* mainly; mostly: *The money is invested principally in government stock.*

principal parts /,prɪnsɪpəl 'pɑːts/ *n* [(the) P] *tech* the parts of a verb from which other parts are formed or can be guessed, in English usu. the INFINITIVE, past tense, present participle, and past participle: *The principal parts of the verb "sing" are "sing", "sang", "singing", and "sung".*

prin-ci-ple /'prɪnsɪpəl/ *n* 1 [C] a truth or belief that is accepted as a base for reasoning or action: *the principle of free speech* [+ that] *One of the principles of this dictionary is that definitions should be in simple language.* | *They agreed to the plan in principle* (=agreed to the general idea of it) *but there were several details they didn't like.* | *All these expensive new refinements are a waste of money. We must get back to first principles.* (=the most simple and important truths) 2 [C;U] a moral rule or set of ideas which guides behaviour: *It's not that I object to him using my car; it's the principle of the thing.* (=morally, he should not have borrowed it without asking) | *She resigned on a matter of principle.* | *I never buy South African goods on principle.* (=because I believe it would be morally wrong) [+ that] *I usually follow the principle that it's better not to get involved in other people's quarrels.* —compare PRINCIPLES (2) 3 [U] *apprec* strong belief in, and practice of, honourable behaviour: *a man of principle* —compare PRINCIPLES (2) 4 [C] (a statement of) the way in which natural objects and forces work in the universe, esp. as it influences the workings of e.g. a machine: *Archimedes' principle* | *the principle of the internal combustion engine* | *A bicycle and a motorcycle are built on the same princi-*

ple, though the force that moves them is different.

prin-ci-pled /'prɪnsɪpəld/ *adj* 1 [A] (*usu. in comb.*) having or based upon PRINCIPLES (1,2): *I have no principled objection* (=no OBJECTION on principle) *to it.* 2 having PRINCIPLES (2): *a high-principled man* —see also UNPRINCIPLED

prin-ci-ples /'prɪnsɪpəlz/ *n* [P] 1 the general rules on which a skill, science, etc., is based, and which a beginner must understand: *This course teaches the principles of cooking.* 2 high personal standards of what is right and wrong, used as a guide to behaviour: *He has no principles; he'll do anything, however bad, as long as it's profitable* —compare PRINCIPLE (2,3)

Principles one of a group of British shops selling women's clothes

prints



fingerprint



footprint

print¹ /prɪnt/ *n* 1 [U] letters, words, or language in printed form: *I can't read small/fine print without my glasses.* | *I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it in print.* —see also FINE PRINT, SMALL PRINT 2 [C] (often *in comb.*) a mark made on a surface showing the shape, pattern, etc., of the thing pressed into or onto it: *a thumbprint* | *These deep marks in the wet ground look like the prints of a bicycle tyre.* —see also FOOTPRINT 3 [C *usu. pl.*] *infml* for FINGERPRINT: *The thief had left his prints on the handle.* 4 [C] (a copy of) a photograph printed after treatment of a photographic film: *Lend me the negatives and I'll order some extra prints.* 5 [C] a picture printed from a small sheet of metal or block of wood: *a set of rare old Chinese prints* 6 [C;U] (a) cloth, usu. cotton, on which a coloured pattern has been printed: *cheap print dresses* 7 **in/out of print** (of a book) that can still/no longer be obtained from the PUBLISHER: *His books haven't been in print for twenty years.*

print² *v* 1 [I;T] to press (letters or pictures) onto (paper) by using shapes covered with ink or paint, or copy (letters or pictures) onto (paper) by using photographic methods: *The bottom line on this page hasn't been properly printed.* | *This machine can print 60 pages in a minute.* | *The photocopier isn't printing well.* 2 [I;T] to make (a book, magazine, etc.) by pressing or copying letters or pictures onto paper: *a book printed in Hong Kong* —compare PUBLISH 3 [T] to make or copy (a photograph) on paper sensitive to light, from a specially treated sheet of photographic film 4 [T] to record in a book, newspaper, etc.: *All today's newspapers have printed the minister's speech in full.* 5 [T] to decorate (cloth or wallpaper) with a coloured pattern pressed or rubbed on the surface: *printed fabrics* 6 [I;T] to write without joining the letters: *Please print your name and address clearly in capital letters.* 7 [T] to press (a mark) onto a soft surface: *The mark of a man's shoe was clearly printed in the mud.* 8 **print money** often *derog* (esp. of a government) to produce a large supply of money so that people can afford to pay for goods whose cost has increased

print (sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* [I;T] (of a computer) to produce (a printed record of information) —see also PRINTOUT

prin-ta-ble /'prɪntəbəl/ *adj* [*usu. negative*] fit to be printed; suitable for reading by anyone: *Her remarks were scarcely printable.* (=were very rude) —opposite UNPRINTABLE

printed cir-cuit /,prɪntɪd 'sɪrkuɪt/ *n* a set of connections between points in an electrical apparatus which uses not wire but a continuous thin line of metal laid down on a surface to CONDUCT (=carry) the electricity. Printed circuits are important for electrical equipment because they are small, easily made, and do not develop faults.

printed mat-ter /'prɪntɪd 'mætə/ *n* [U] *tech* printed articles, such as official advertisements, that can be sent by post at a special cheap rate

printed word /,prɪntɪd 'wɜːd/ [the] magazines, newspapers, books, etc.: *The government was accused of putting a tax on the printed word.*

print-er /'prɪntə/ *n* 1 a person employed in the trade of printing 2 a machine for making copies, esp. photographs 3 a machine which is connected to a computer and makes a printed record of computer information — compare PRINTING PRESS, and see picture at COMPUTER

print-ing /'prɪntɪŋ/ *n* 1 [U] the act or art of printing: *The invention of printing made it possible for many more people to learn to read.* | *a printing error* 2 [C] an act of printing a number of copies of a book; IMPRESSION: *This is the third printing of the book.* 3 [U] letters printed by hand

printing ink /'...-/ also **printer's ink** — *n* [U] a quick-drying ink used in printing books, newspapers, etc. — compare PRINTER (2,3)

printing press /'...-/ also **press**, **printing machine** /'...-/ — *n* a machine that prints books, newspapers, etc.

print-out /'prɪnt,aut/ *n* [C;U] a sheet or length of paper containing printed information produced by a computer

pri-or /'praɪə/ *adj* [A] 1 coming or planned before: *I was unable to attend the meeting because of a prior engagement.* (=before I was asked to the meeting, I had arranged to do something else which would prevent me from going to the meeting) 2 more important; coming first in importance: *I stopped playing football because my work had a prior claim on my time.* 3 **prior to** *fml* before: *All the arrangements should have been completed prior to our departure.*

prior ² *n* 1 also **pri-or-ess** /'praɪəɾɪs/ *fem.* — the head of a priory 2 the priest next in rank below the head of an ABBEY (=a large religious house)

pri-o-ri-tize also **-tise** *BrE* /praɪ'ɔ:riːz/ — *v* [T] 1 to give (something) priority: *The public wants to see the fight against crime prioritized.* 2 to arrange (a number of things, problems, etc.) in the order in which they will be dealt with: *We need to prioritize all these jobs before we can start working on them.*

pri-or-i-ty /praɪ'ɔ:riːti/ *n* 1 [U (over)] the state or right of coming before others in position or time: *The badly wounded take/have priority for medical attention over those only slightly hurt.* | *We have a priority booking scheme for members of our supporters' club.* (=they can get tickets before anyone else) 2 [C] something that needs attention, consideration, service, etc., before others: *The arranging of this business agreement is a top priority.* | *You must learn to get your priorities right.* (=deal with the most important things first) 3 [U] the right of a vehicle to go forward while others must wait: *Vehicles coming from the left have priority.* — compare PRECEDENCE

pri-o-ry /'praɪəri/ *n* (often *cap.*) a Christian religious house or group of men (MONKS) or women (NUNS) living together, which is smaller and less important than an ABBEY — compare ABBEY

prise /praɪz/ *v* [T] *esp. BrE* for PRIZE⁵

pris-m /'prɪzəm/ *n* 1 (in GEOMETRY) a solid figure with a flat base and parallel upright edges 2 a transparent three-sided block, usu. made of glass, that breaks up white light into different colours — see picture at SPECTRUM

pris-mat-ic /prɪz'mætɪk/ *adj* 1 using a PRISM (2): *a prismatic compass* 2 (of a colour) very bright, clear, and varied

pris-on /'prɪzən/ *n* 1 [C;U] a large building (usu. owned by the state) where people are kept as a punishment after being found guilty of a crime or while waiting to be tried: *The thief was sent to prison for a year.* — see picture at CELL 2 [U] the state or condition of being kept in such a place; imprisonment: *Many people believe that prison isn't a cure for crime.* 3 **stone walls do not a prison make** *quote* a phrase from a poem by Richard Lovelace, meaning that people can still feel free even if they are locked up

prison camp /'...-/ *n* a guarded camp, usu. surrounded by a wire fence, for prisoners of war

pris-on-er /'prɪzənə/ *n* 1 a person kept in a prison for a crime or while waiting to be tried: *The prisoners are allowed an hour's exercise every day.* | *"Prisoner at the bar" (=on trial), how do you plead?"* 2 a person or animal (taken and) held with limited freedom of movement: *He was captured and taken prisoner* (=was made a prisoner) *by enemy soldiers.* | *The guerillas held/kept her*



prisoner *for three months.* | (fig.) *We are all prisoners of our past.*

prisoner of conscience /'...- '.../ *n* a person who is put in prison because people in power do not like their political ideas

prisoner of war /'...- '.../ also **POW** *infml* — *n* a member of the armed forces caught by the enemy during a war and kept as a prisoner, usu. until the war is over

Prisoner of Zen-da /,prɪzənər əv 'zendə/, **The** a story by Anthony Hope about the adventures of an Englishman in the imaginary kingdom of Ruritania

prison vis-i-tor /'...- '.../ *n* (in Britain) a person who visits prisoners in order to help them with their difficulties or complaints, to keep them cheerful, etc.

pris-sy /'prɪsi/ *adj infml* annoyingly exact or proper in behaviour — *sily adv* — *siness n* [U]

pris-tine /'prɪstɪn/ *adj fml or lit* pure; undamaged; fresh and clean: *an old book still in pristine condition* | *the pristine whiteness of newly-fallen snow*

Pritch-ett /'prɪtʃɛt/, **V S** (1900–) a British writer known esp. for his short stories; his works include *Collected Stories* (1982) and *The Spanish Temper*, a travel book

prith-ee /'prɪði/ *interj* old use please

priv-a-cy /'prɪvəsi, 'praɪ-||'praɪ-/ *n* [U] 1 the (desirable) state of being away from other people, so that they cannot see or hear what one is doing, interest themselves in one's affairs, etc. In many western countries, this is usu. given particular value and people expect to have their privacy respected by others: *There's not much privacy in these flats because of the large windows and thin walls.* 2 secrecy; avoidance of being noticed or talked about publicly

pri-vate /'praɪvət/ *adj* 1 personal; secret; not (to be) shared with others: *It's wrong to read people's private letters without permission.* | *Don't tell anyone else what I told you; it's private.* 2 not intended for everyone, but for a particular person or chosen group; not public: *A well-known singer gave a private performance at the party.* | *The directors have their own private plane.* | *private land* 3 independent; not connected with government, public service, etc.: *Treatment in government hospitals is free, but if you go to a private hospital you must pay.* 4 unofficial; not connected with one's business or official position, or with one's public life: *The president is paying a private visit to Europe.* | *I don't like the way newspapers snoop into people's private lives.* 5 where other people are not present, or cannot see or hear one: *Is there some private corner where we can sit and talk by ourselves?* 6 (of a person) (liking to be) away from other people, on one's own *She's a very private person.* — compare PUBLIC¹ — *~ly adv*: *May I speak to you privately?* (=with no one else present) | *a privately printed book* (=not produced by a PUBLISHER)

private ² *n* 1 (written abbrev. **Pte**) also **private soldier** *fml* — (often *cap.*) a soldier of the lowest rank 2 **in private** secretly; not in the presence of other people — opposite **in public**

private bill /'...- '.../ *n* a BILL¹ (2) that has an effect on a particular person or class, rather than the general public

private de-tec-tive /'...- '.../ also **private eye** /'...- '.../ *infml*, **private in-ves-ti-ga-tor** /'...- '.../, **gumshoe** *AmE sl* — *n* a person, not a policeman, who can be hired to do certain sorts of police work, such as following people and reporting on their actions

private ed-u-ca-tion /'...- '.../ *n* [U] education provided privately and not by the government. Quite a large number

of people in Britain are against private education because they think it strengthens class differences and makes people less equal, but some people in Britain and the US are willing to pay for private education because they feel it gives their children a better standard of education.

private enter-prise /ˌprɪvətˈɪz/ *n* **1** [U] the economic system in which private businesses operate in free competition with each other and the government does not control industry **2** [C] a business set up by an individual person or group of people

pri-va-teer /ˌpraɪvətɪər/ *n* (in former times) (the commander of, or a sailor on) an armed ship, owned and commanded by private people, that had government permission to attack and rob enemy ships carrying goods

Private Eye /ˌprɪvət ˈaɪ/ a British humorous magazine known for making fun of well-known people, including politicians and the royal family, and for uncovering secrets. It has often been taken to court by people who claim to have been damaged by things which have been written about them.

private in-come /ˌprɪvət ˈɪn/ *n* money which one gets regularly, usu. enough to live on, not from working but because one has money in a business or bank, which earns INTEREST¹ (5)

private law /ˌprɪvət ˈlɔː/ *n* [U] *law* the part of the law concerned with private people, property, and relationships — compare PUBLIC LAW (2)

private medi-cine /ˌprɪvət ˈmɪdɪn/ *n* [U] *BrE* HEALTH CARE which is not provided by the government but paid for by private insurance or directly. Most people in Britain are proud of the National Health Service, mainly paid for by the government, which provides free health care for all. Some people feel that the growth of private medicine will reduce standards in the public service. The people who have private medicine often do so because they are treated more quickly.

private mem-ber /ˌprɪvət ˈmɛmbər/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a member of a parliament who is not a minister in the government

private member's bill /ˌprɪvət ˈmɛmbərz bɪl/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a parliamentary law introduced by a member of parliament who is not a minister in the government. Most parliamentary laws are introduced by the government but some private member's bills have been important e.g. in introducing laws concerning DIVORCE and CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

private mon-ey /ˌprɪvət ˈmɒni/ *n* [U] money used to pay for business plans, e.g. the Channel Tunnel, which comes from private people and not from the government

private parts /ˌprɪvət ˈpɑːts/ also **pri-vates** /ˌpraɪvəts/ *infml* — *n* [P] *euph* the outer sexual organs

private pa-tient /ˌprɪvət ˈtɪənt/ *n* *BrE* somebody who pays for HEALTH CARE rather than receiving free care provided by the government

private prac-tice /ˌprɪvət ˈpræktɪs/ *n* [U] **1** the practice of a professional person which is independent of an organization; esp. the practice of doctors and DENTISTS in Britain outside the National Health Service (NHS). It is quite common for doctors and dentists in Britain to have private PATIENTS, who pay, in addition to their NHS patients. **2** *AmE* the practice of a professional person, esp. a doctor or lawyer, who works alone rather than with a group of others: *He set up a private practice when he got tired of the firm's politics.*

private school /ˌprɪvət ˈskuːl/ *n* a school not supported by government money, where education must be paid for. In Britain a private school is often called a PREP SCHOOL or a PUBLIC SCHOOL. Only a fairly small number of school-age children attend private schools; most attend STATE SCHOOLS.

private sec-re-ta-ry /ˌprɪvət ˈsekɪtəri/ *n* a secretary who is employed to help one person esp. with CONFIDENTIAL business matters

private sec-tor /ˌprɪvət ˈsektər/ *n* [*the*] those industries and services in a country that are owned and run by private companies, not by the state: *pay increases in the private sector* | *private sector employees* — compare PUBLIC SECTOR

private sol-dier /ˌprɪvət ˈsɔːliər/ *n* *fml* for PRIVATE² (1)

private treat-y /ˌprɪvət ˈtriːti/ *n* *BrE* *law* by private treaty by private arrangement between buyer and seller and not

in a public meeting: *For sale by private treaty, a 4-bedroomed country house overlooking the Wye Valley.*

private view /ˌprɪvət ˈvjuː/ also **private view-ing** /ˌprɪvət ˈvjuːɪŋ/ *n* an occasion on which certain people are able to see a public show of objects such as paintings before it opens to the general public

pri-va-tion /praɪˈveɪʃən/ *n* *fml* [C;U] (a) lack or loss of the necessary things or the main comforts of life: *Everyone suffered privations during the war, when there wasn't enough food in the country.*

pri-vat-i-za-tion /ˌpraɪvətəɪˈzeɪʃən/ *n* [U] the selling (of a government-owned industry or organization) into private ownership. Margaret Thatcher was strongly in favour of this and during the 1980s, her Conservative government sold many state-run companies into private ownership e.g. British Telecom, British Gas, British Airways etc.

pri-vat-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˌpraɪvətaɪz/ *v* [T] esp. *BrE* to sell (a government-owned industry or organization) into private ownership: *Cleaning services in state-run hospitals have been privatized.* — compare NATIONALIZE

priv-et /ˈprɪvɪt/ *n* [U] a bush with leaves that stay green all the year, often grown in gardens to form a HEDGE

priv-i-lege /ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a special advantage limited to a particular person or group: *He had his privileges withdrawn as a punishment.* | *Education is a privilege, not a right, in many countries.* — compare PREROGATIVE **2** [U] often *derog* advantage possessed by a person or group because of their wealth, social rank, etc.: *The British public schools are bastions of privilege.* **3** [S] a special favour; advantage that gives one great pleasure: *He's a fine musician; it's a privilege to hear him play.* **4** [C;U] (a) right to do or say things without risk of punishment, esp. in a parliament: *A member of parliament mustn't hit a fellow member; that would be a breach of privilege.* (=a breaking of the rules about what a member can do or say)

priv-i-legged /ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒd/ *adj* **1** having a special favour or honour: [F+to-v] *We are privileged tonight to have as our main speaker the Foreign Minister of France.* **2** often *derog* having advantage because of wealth, social rank etc.: *the privileged classes* **3** that a court of law cannot force one to make known: *a privileged communication*

priv-y¹ /ˈprɪvi/ *adj* **1** [F+to] *fml* sharing secret knowledge (of): *I was not privy to the discussions, so I cannot tell you what was decided.* **2** [A] *old use* secret; private — *ily adv*

privy² also **outhouse** *AmE* — *n* *old use* a TOILET, esp. an outdoor one

Privy Coun-cil /ˌprɪvɪ ˈkaʊn-sɪl/ [*the*] (in Britain) a body of people of high rank in politics and public life who can be asked to advise the king or queen on certain state affairs — *~ lor n*

Privy Purse /ˌprɪvɪ ˈpɜːs/ [*the*] (*sometimes not cap.*) (in Britain) money given by the government to a king or queen for their personal use

Privy Seal /ˌprɪvɪ ˈsiːl/ [*the*] see LORD PRIVY SEAL

prize¹ /praɪz/ *n* [(for)] something, typically valuable or desirable, given to someone who is successful in a game, race, competition, game of chance, etc., or given as a reward for some good action or work: *Hundreds of prizes can be won in our newspaper competition.* | **First** (=main) *prize in the raffle is a holiday for two in Paris.* | *Lady Browne will present the prizes after the school sports.* | *I will now announce the prizewinning entry in the competition.* | (fig.) *To some men wealth is the greatest prize in life, and to others, fame.* | (fig.) *There are no prizes for guessing who told them.* (=it is easy to guess)

prize² *adj* [A] **1** that has won a prize: *prize cattle* | *a prize rose* **2** given as a prize: *prize money* **3** *infml*, often *humor* complete; *UTTER*: *She always makes a mess of things; she's a prize idiot!*

prize³ *v* [T] to value highly: *The boy's bicycle was his most prized possession.* | *This sort of hen is much prized for its high egg yield.*

prize⁴ *n* **1** (esp. in former times) (the goods contained in) an enemy ship taken possession of at sea **2** something caught and taken away: *The fox raided the henhouse and ran off with its prize.* (=a chicken)

prize⁵ also **prise** esp. *BrE* || also **pry** esp. *AmE* — *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to move, lift, or force with a tool or

metal bar: *We prized the top off the box/prized the box open with a lever.*

prize sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T (of)] to get (information) from someone with difficulty or by force: *At last we managed to prize the secret out of him with the offer of a bribe.*

prize day /'prɪz deɪ/ *n* esp. BrE (often cap.) (in a school) a yearly giving of prizes for good work done during the year

prize-fight /'praɪzfaɪt/ *n* 1 (in former times) a public BOXING match for a money prize, in which the two men fought with bare hands 2 AmE a PROFESSIONAL BOXING match — ~er *n* — ~ing *n* [U]

pro /prəʊ/ *n* **pros** 1 *infml* for PROFESSIONAL² (2): *a pro footballer* | *That actor's a real pro, and always gives a good performance!* 2 BrE old-fash *infml* for PROSTITUTE¹ — see also PROS AND CONS

PRO /,pi: ɑ: 'əʊ/ *n* a public relations officer; a person whose job is to supply information about an organization and keep a good relationship between it and the public

pro- see WORD FORMATION

pro-am /,prəʊ 'æm-/ *n, adj* [A] (a competition, esp. in GOLF) in which those taking part include both PROFESSIONALS (people who play for money) and AMATEURS (those who just play for pleasure)

prob-a-bil-i-ty /,prɒbə'bɪləti/ *n* 1 [S;U (of)] the state of being probable or the degree to which something is probable; likelihood: *There's very little probability of an agreement being reached.* [+ (that)] *There is a strong probability that the tumour is operable.* | **In all probability** (=almost certainly) *they will simply get a strong warning not to do it again* 2 [C] a probable event or result: *A peace agreement is now a real probability.* —opposite **improbability** (for 1,2) 3 [C] (in MATHEMATICS) the chance of an event happening, expressed as a calculation based on known numbers: *a probability of one in four*

prob-a-ble /'prɒbəbəl/ *adj* that may be expected to happen; that has a good chance of being true or correct; likely: *It's possible that they will win, but judging by their recent performances it doesn't seem very probable.* | *The probable outcome of the talks is a compromise.* [+that] *It is highly probable that there will be an election this year.* —opposite **improbable**

▷ **USAGE** Although it means the same as **likely**, **probable** cannot be used with *to-v*. You cannot use **probable** instead of **likely** in this type of sentence: *It is likely to happen.* ◁

probable² *n infml* a person who is likely to be chosen for a team, to win a race, etc.

probable cause /,prɒbə'leɪz/ *n* [U] *law* a reason to believe that someone has committed (COMMIT) a crime and should go to court for a TRIAL

prob-a-bly /'prɒbəbli/ *adv* almost (but not quite) certainly; according to what is likely: *John probably told his father all about the matter; he usually tells him everything.* | *We're going on holiday soon, probably next month.* | *"Will you be able to come tomorrow?" "Probably not."*

pro-bate /'prəʊbeɪt, -bɪt/ *n law* [U] the legal process of deciding that someone's WILL² (5) has been properly made and can be carried out

probate² *v* [T] AmE *law* to prove (a WILL² (5)) to be legal

pro-ba-tion /prə'beɪʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the process of testing, for a usu. fixed length of time, the suitability of a person's character, abilities, etc. (e.g. for a job or for membership of a society): *You'll be on probation for the first two months.* 2 *law* the system of allowing certain law-breakers not to go to prison, etc., if they behave well and report regularly to a PROBATION OFFICER for a fixed period of time: *The young offender was put on probation for two years.* — ~ary *adj*: *a probationary period*

pro-ba-tion-er /prə'beɪʃənər/ *n* 1 a person who is being tested for membership of a church or religious group 2 a young hospital nurse during the early part of training 3 a law-breaker who has been put on probation

probation hos-tel /,prɒbə'si:ʒən/ *n* a place operated by local authorities in Britain, providing temporary housing and support for people who are on BAIL (1) —compare BAIL HOSTEL

probation of-fi-cer /,prɒbə'si:ʒən/ *n* a person whose job is to

watch, advise, and help law-breakers who are on probation

probe¹ /prəʊb/ *n* 1 a long thin metal instrument, usu. with a rounded end, esp. one used to search inside a wound, a hole in a tooth, etc. 2 also **space probe**— a spacecraft without humans on board, sent to examine conditions in outer space and send information back to Earth 3 [(into)] (esp. in newspapers) a careful and thorough inquiry: *a probe into police corruption*

probe² *v* [I (into);T] to search or examine (as if) with a probe: *He probed the mud with a stick, looking for the ring he had dropped.* | (fig.) *a newspaper report probing (into) the activities of drug dealers* | *probing questions* — **probingly** *adv*

pro-bi-ty /'prəʊbɪti/ *n* [U] *fml* perfect honesty; the quality of being completely honourable and trustworthy

prob-lem /'prɒbləm/ *n* 1 a difficulty that needs attention and thought: *The biggest problem we face is the shortage of trained staff.* | *The shortage of trained staff poses (= causes us to have) a serious problem.* | *The problem is that we need the director's approval, but the director is on holiday.* | *"I've left my money at home."* | *"That's no problem. I can lend you what you need."* | *a policy that will solve the unemployment problem* | *a conference to discuss the pressing (=serious) problem of drought in East Africa* 2 a question, esp. connected with numbers, facts, etc., for which an answer is needed: *to solve a mathematical problem* 3 [usu. sing.] *infml* a person who causes difficulty: *a problem child* 4 **no problem** AmE it was no trouble; it doesn't matter (said when someone thanks you or says they are sorry for something)

prob-lem-at-ic /,prɒblə'mætɪk/ *adj* also **prob-lem-at-i-cal** /-kəl/— *adj* full of problems or causing problems: *Putting this policy into effect could be very problematic.* —**ically** /kli/ *adv*

problem solv-ing /'prɒbləm'sɒlvɪŋ/ *n* [U] the activity of finding answers to difficulties: *It's really a job for someone with good problem-solving abilities*

pro bo-no pub-lic-co /prəʊ 'bɒnəʊ 'pʌblɪkəʊ/ *adj* also **pro bono**— *adj* Lat for the public good; of or about work that is done for the help of the public and not for money, esp. work done by a lawyer or group of lawyers: *Some law firms have a policy of taking on pro bono cases when possible.*

pro-bos-cis /prə'bosɪs/ *n* -cises /sɪ'sɪz/ or -cides /sɪ'dɪz/ *tech* 1 the long movable nose of certain animals, esp. the elephant 2 a long tube-like part of the mouth of some insects and worms

pro-ce-du-ral /prə'sɪ:dʒərəl/ *adj* of procedure, esp. in a court of law: *procedural difficulties*

pro-ce-dure /prə'sɪ:dʒər/ *n* 1 [U] the method and order of directing business in an official meeting, a law case, etc.: *So much time was spent on agreeing procedure at our first meeting that we didn't start any actual business until our second.* 2 [C (for)] a set of actions necessary for doing something: *Writing a cheque is quite a simple procedure.* | *What's the correct procedure for renewing your car tax?* —compare PROCESS¹

pro-ceed /prə'sɪd/ *v* [I] rather *fml* 1 [(to, with)] to begin or continue in a course of action or set of actions: *The work is proceeding according to plan.* | *We can now proceed to the main business of the meeting.* | *He paused to consult his notes, and then proceeded with his questions.* [+to-v] *The director said he liked my scheme very much, and then proceeded to tear it to bits!* (=destroy it completely) 2 [+adv/prep] to advance; move in a particular direction: *According to the policeman's report, the stolen car was proceeding in a northerly direction.* | *Passengers for the New York flight should now proceed to Gate 25.* —compare PRECEDE

proceed against sbdy. *phr v* [T pass. rare] *fml* to take an action in law against

proceed from sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] *fml* to happen or exist as a result of: *diseases that proceed from poverty*

pro-ceed-ing /prə'sɪdɪŋ/ *n* [often pl.] 1 an act of business: *the necessary proceedings for the merger of the two banks* 2 *fml* an event or course of action, esp. one that is unusual or undesirable: *He watched the proceedings with interest.*

pro-ceed-ings /prə'sɪdɪŋz/ *n* [P] 1 an action taken in law

(esp. in the phrases **start/take (legal) proceedings**) **2** (often *cap.*) the records of business, activities, etc., at the meetings of an association or club: *the Proceedings of the London Historical Society*

pro-ceeds /'prəʊsiːdz/ *n* [P] money gained from the sale of something, or as the result of some activity for getting money: *The proceeds of the sale amounted to £500.*

pro-cess¹ /'prəʊses/ || 'prɑː-/ *n* **1** a connected set of natural actions or events that produce continuation or gradual change, and over which humans have little control: *Coal was formed out of dead forests by a long slow process of chemical change.* | *the process of breathing* | *the ageing process* (=by which people grow old) **2** a connected set of human actions or operations that are performed intentionally in order to reach a particular result or as part of an official system or established method of doing something: *the process of learning to read* | *the electoral/democratic process* | *The company is still in the process* (=performing the operation) *of moving to a new factory.* | *They are trying to extend the range of goods they sell and, in the process, to appeal to a new type of customer.* | *The police established the identity of the dead man by a process of elimination.* **3** a particular system or treatment of materials used esp. in producing goods: *an advanced industrial process* **4** *tech* part of a plant or animal that grows standing out and is easily seen **5** *tech* a legal action in all its stages —compare PROCEDURE

process² *v* [T] **1** to treat and preserve (a substance, esp. a food) by a particular PROCESS¹ (3): *processed cheese* **2** to print a picture from (a photographic film) **3** to put (information, numbers, etc.) into a computer for examination **4** to examine or deal with, esp. by means of an established system or process: *Your application for a mortgage is now being processed.*

pro-cess³ /prə'ses/ *v* [I+ *adv/prep*] to walk (as if) in a procession

processed food /,prə'sesd fud/ *n* [C;U] *usu. derog* food which has been prepared for sale and specially treated so that it can be stored, and so that it is attractive to the buyer, e.g. by adding extra colour to it. Processed foods are generally considered to be less healthy than fresh foods.

pro-ces-sion /prə'seʃən/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a line of people, vehicles, etc., moving forward in an orderly way, e.g. as part of a religious ceremony or public entertainment: *a carnival procession* | (fig.) *interrupted by a procession of unwelcome visitors* **2** [C;U] a continuous onward movement of people or things: *The workers marched in procession.* | *to hold a procession*

pro-ces-sion-al /prə'seʃənəl/ *adj* [A] connected with or used in a solemn religious procession: *a processional march/banner*

pro-ces-sor /'prəʊsesə/ || 'prɑː-/ *n* a MICROPROCESSOR —see also FOOD PROCESSOR, WORD PROCESSOR

pro-choice /,prə'ɔɪs/ *adj* *euph* favouring ABORTION being available to those who want it. In the US, people who are pro-choice often LOBBY Congress and walk in DEMONSTRATIONS. —compare PRO-LIFE; see also ABORTION (CULTURAL NOTE)

pro-claim /prə'kleɪm/ || prəʊ-/ *v* [T] **1** *fml* to make (esp. news of national importance) known publicly, esp. using speech rather than writing; declare officially: *The ringing bells proclaimed the birth of the prince.* | *A national holiday was proclaimed.* | *He proclaimed his intention of attending, despite their opposition.* [+*obj*+*n*] *The boy was proclaimed king.* **2** *lit* to show clearly; be an outward sign of: [+*obj*/(*that*)] *His accent proclaimed his American origins/proclaimed that he was American.*

proc-la-ma-tion /,prɒklə'meɪʃən/ || prɑː-/ *n* [C] an official public statement: *a royal proclamation* **2** [U] the act of proclaiming

pro-cliv-i-ty /prə'klɪvɪti/ || prəʊ-/ *n* [(*to*, *towards*)] *fml* a strong natural liking or tendency, esp. towards something bad

pro-con-sul /prəʊ'kɒnsəl/ || -'kɑːn-/ *n* a governor of a part of the ancient Roman Empire —~*ar* /prəʊ'kɒnsjʊlə/ || -'kɑːnsələ/ *adj* [A]

pro-con-su-late /prəʊ'kɒnsjʊlət/ || -'kɑːnsəl-/ also **pro-con-sul-ship** /prəʊ'kɒnsəlʃɪp/ || -'kɑːn-/ *n* the rank or period of office of a proconsul

pro-cras-ti-nate /prə'kræstɪneɪt/ *v* [I] *fml* to delay repeatedly and without good reason in doing something that must

be done: *Stop procrastinating — just sit down and do it.* —**nation** /prə'kræstɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pro-cre-ate /'prəʊkriːt/ *v* [I;T] *esp. fml or tech* to produce or give life to (young) —**ation** /,prəʊkri'eɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Procter & Gam-ble /,prɒktə'gæmbl/ *tdmk* an American company which makes washing powder and many different cleaning products

proc-tor¹ /'prɒktə/ || 'prɑːk-/ *n* **1** (esp. at Oxford and Cambridge) a university officer whose duties include making students keep university rules **2** *AmE* a person appointed to make sure students do not cheat in an examination

proctor² *v* [T] *AmE* for INVIGILATE

pro-cu-ra-tor fis-cal /,prɒkjʊ'reɪtə 'fɪskəl/ || ,prɑːkjʊ'reɪtər-/ also **fiscal infml**— *n* an official in Scotland who is in charge of deciding whether there is enough evidence against a person for them to be sent to court for a TRIAL —see also extra information on page 739

pro-cure /prə'kjʊə/ || prəʊ-/ *v* [(*for*)] **1** [T] *fml* to obtain, esp. by effort or careful attention: *I managed to procure two tickets for the final.* [+*obj*(*i*)+*obj*(*d*)] *Somehow he had procured us an invitation.* **2** [I;T] *derog, esp. lit* to provide (a woman) for someone else's sexual satisfaction —**ment** *n* [U]

pro-cur-er /prə'kjʊərə/ || **pro-cur-ess** /-rɪs/ *fem.*— *n* a person who procures (esp. PROCURE (2))

prod¹ /prɒd/ || prɑːd/ *v* -**dd-** **1** [I (at); T] to push or press (something or someone) with a pointed object; POKE: *He prodded (at) the snake with his toe to make sure it was dead.* | *She prodded him in the ribs.* **2** [T (into)] to urge sharply into action or thought: *The announcement prodded us into action.* | *He's not lazy, exactly, but he needs prodding.*

prod² *n* **1** an act of prodding: *You'd better give her memory a prod.* (=remind her) **2** an instrument used for prodding

prod-i-gal¹ /'prɒdɪgəl/ || 'prɑː-/ *adj* **1** *derog* carelessly wasteful, esp. of money: *his prodigal lifestyle* **2** [F+of] *fml* *ap-prec* giving or producing large amounts freely and generously: *a mind prodigal of ideas* —~*ly* *adv* —~*ity* /,prɒdɪ'gælɪti/ || ,prɑː-/ *n* [U]

prodigal² *n infml, often humor* a person who leads a life of careless wasteful spending and perhaps immoral pleasure

prodigal son /,prɒdɪ'gəl sɒn/ || [the] (often *cap.*) a young man in a story in the Bible who leaves home and wastes his time and money but then feels sorry and returns home, where he receives a joyful welcome from his family —see also **kill the fatted calf** (KILL)

pro-di-gious /prə'dɪdʒəs/ *adj* wonderfully large, powerful, etc.: *a prodigious memory* —~*ly* *adv*

prod-i-gy /'prɒdɪdʒi/ || 'prɑː-/ *n* **1** a person who has unusual and very noticeable abilities: *a child prodigy* (=an unusually clever child) **2** a wonder in nature: *Mount Everest is one of nature's prodigies.*

pro-duce¹ /prə'djuːs/ || -'duːz/ *v* **1** [T] to grow or bring into existence naturally: *These trees produce rubber.* | *The pancreas is an organ in the body that produces insulin.* | *Canada produces high-quality wheat.* **2** [I;T] to make (goods for sale), esp. in large quantities: *They produce over 250 cars a week.* | *Gas can be produced from coal.* | *The factory hasn't begun to produce yet.* —see also MASS PRODUCE **3** [T] to make by using skill and imagination: *to produce a work of art* | *She can produce a delicious meal from simple ingredients.* **4** [T] to give birth to (a young animal): *Female sheep produce one or two lambs at a time.* | (humor) *Mrs Dobson has just produced twins.* **5** [T] to show, bring out, or offer for examination or consideration: *The magician produced a rabbit from a hat.* | *Can you produce any proof of your date of birth?* | *He suddenly produced a gun.* **6** [T] to prepare and bring before the public: *The book/The play was produced on a very small budget.* **7** [T] to cause; have as a result or effect: *The election did not produce a clear victory for any party.* | *The two lasers combine to produce a powerful cutting tool.* **8** [T] *tech* (in GEOMETRY) to lengthen or continue (a line) to a point —see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

prod-uce² /'prɒdjʊːs/ || 'prəʊdʊːs/ *n* [U] something that has been produced, esp. by growing or farming: *The wine bottle was marked "Produce of Spain".* —see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

pro-duc-er /prə'dju:sə/ -'duz-/ *n* 1 a person, company, or country that produces goods, foods, or materials: *one of the world's leading oil producers* —compare CONSUMER 2 a person who has general control esp. of the money for a play, film, or broadcast, but who does not direct the actors —compare DIRECTOR (2), IMPRESARIO; see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

prod-uct /'prɒdʌkt/ 'prɑː-/ *n* 1 something useful produced by growth or from the ground, or made in a factory: *The country's main products are cocoa and gold.* | *a decline in our exports of manufactured products* | *to market new products* | *the finished product coming off the assembly line* —see also BY-PRODUCT, END PRODUCT, GNP 2 something that is produced as a result of thought, will, planning, conditions, etc.: *Today's housing problems are the product of years of neglect.* 3 [(of) *tech* (in MATHEMATICS)] the number got by multiplying two or more numbers: *The product of 3 multiplied by 2 multiplied by 6 is 36.* 4 *tech* a new chemical compound produced by chemical action —see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

pro-duc-tion /prə'dʌkʃən/ *n* 1 [U (of)] the act of producing something: *Entrance is permitted only on production of a ticket.* | *She has been involved in the production of several well-known films.* 2 [U] the process of making products: *one of the stages in the production of paper* | *When will the new range of computers go into (full) production?* (=begin to be produced in large numbers) | *a factory's production manager* | *to stimulate production* 3 [U] the amount produced: *Production of steel has increased in the last few weeks.* | *a cut in production* 4 [C] something produced by skill or imagination, esp. a work of art or a play, film, or broadcast: *This theatre is known for its imaginative productions.* —see also MASS PRODUCTION

▷ USAGE Compare **production**, **product**, **produce**, and **producer**. **Production** [U] is the process in which things are made: *a good rate of production*. A **production** [C] is a play, film, etc. made for the theatre, television, etc.: *a new production of "Hamlet"*. A **product** [C] is something made by industry: *various industrial products*. **Produce** [U] (ˈɒ, ɪ) is the general word for things got from a farm, such as milk, potatoes, or wool: *a large quantity of agricultural produce*. If you **produce** (ˈɒ, ɪ) any of the things mentioned above you are a **producer**. ◁

production line /ˈɒ, ɪ/ *n* an arrangement of workers and machines in a factory so that the stages of work follow each other in order; ASSEMBLY LINE

production num-ber /ˈɒ, ɪ/ *n* (in a MUSICAL²) a scene involving many people singing and usu. dancing on the stage all at once

production plat-form /ˈɒ, ɪ/ *n* a large piece of equipment standing on very long legs used for getting oil out of the ground under the sea

pro-duc-tive /prə'dʌktɪv/ *adj* 1 that produces well or in large quantities: *a very productive writer* | *productive land* | *a productive meeting* (=bringing useful results) —opposite UNPRODUCTIVE 2 of or resulting in the production of goods or wealth: *Office work is necessary, but most of it is not directly productive.* | *the factory's productive capacity* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

pro-duc-tiv-i-ty /,prɒdʌk'tɪvɪti, -dɒk-/ *n* [U] the rate of producing goods, crops, etc.; the relationship between the amount that is produced and the work, money, etc., that is needed to produce it: *new production methods that have led to high/increased productivity* | *a productivity bonus*

prof /prɒf/ *n* *sl* for PROFESSOR (1,2)

Prof *written abbrev. for:* PROFESSOR (1,2): *Prof Peter Smith*

pro-fane¹ /prə'feɪn/ *adj* 1 showing disrespect for God or for holy things: *To smoke in a church or mosque would be a profane act.* 2 (esp. of language) socially shocking, esp. because of improper use of religious words —compare OBSCENE 3 *fml* not religious or holy; concerned with human life in this world; SECULAR: *profane art* —opposite SACRED —~ly *adv*

profane² *v* [T] to treat (esp. something holy) disrespectfully —**fanation** /,prɒfə'neɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pro-fan-i-ty /prə'fænti/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) being profane, esp. in language: *Their conversation was full of pro-*

fanities. (=shocking words) —compare BLASPHEMY, OBSCENITY

pro-fess /prə'fes/ *v* [T] *fml* 1 to make a (usu. false or insincere) claim of or about: *She professed ignorance of their intentions.* [+to-*v*] *I don't profess to know anything about poetry.* 2 to declare openly or freely (a personal feeling, belief, etc.): *The president has professed his enthusiasm for the scheme.* [+obj+*n*/adj] *She professed herself (to be) completely satisfied with the arrangements.* 3 to have (a religion or belief)

pro-fessed /prə'fest/ *adj* 1 [A] plainly self-declared: *She is a professed man-hater.* 2 pretended: *a professed sorrow* —~ly /prə'fesɪdli/ *adv*

pro-fes-sion /prə'feʃən/ *n* 1 [C] a form of employment, esp. one that is possible only for an educated person and after training (such as law, medicine, or teaching) and that is respected in society as honourable: *He is a lawyer by profession.* | *to pursue a profession* —see JOB (USAGE) 2 [the+*sing./pl. v*] the whole body of people in a particular profession: *The teaching profession claim(s) to be badly paid.* | *Dr Wilde is well-respected by leading members of the (medical) profession.* 3 [C (of)] *fml* a declaration of one's belief, opinion, or feeling: *professions of regret* 4 the oldest profession in the world *humor* the profession of being a PROSTITUTE

pro-fes-sion-al¹ /prə'feʃənəl/ *adj* 1 [A no comp.] of or working in one of the professions: *I'm not sure about your legal position in this matter: I think you should take professional advice.* (=from a lawyer) | *Our doctor has been accused of professional misconduct.* 2 *usu. apprec* showing the qualities of training of a member of a profession: *You made a good job of painting the kitchen — very professional!* | *professional standards* | *Don't wear those old clothes to work; try to look more professional.* 3 [no comp.] doing for money what others do a for enjoyment: *a professional photographer* | *a footballer who has just turned professional* (=started to play football as a job) b themselves, in order to save money: *a professional painter and decorator* —compare AMATEUR (1) 4 [no comp.] done by people who are paid: *professional football* —compare AMATEUR 5 [A no comp.] *BrE euph* (of a breaking of rules in sport) intentional: *If a footballer handles the ball to stop another player getting it, it is often called a professional foul.* —~ly *adv*: *She was professionally trained.*

professional² also **pro infml**— *n* 1 *apprec* a person who has great experience and high professional standards: *She's a real professional.* 2 a person who earns money by practising a particular skill or sport —compare AMATEUR 3 (often in comb.) a sportsman employed by a private club to play for it and to teach its members: *a tennis professional*

Professional Golf-ers' As-so-ci-a-tion of A-me-ri-ca /ˌɒ, ɪ/ *n* see PGA

pro-fes-sion-al-is-m /prə'feʃənəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] 1 *often apprec* the behaviour, skill, or qualities shown by a professional 2 (in sports) the practice of using professional players

professional per-son /ˌɒ, ɪ/ *n* an educated man or woman who usu. has a job in an office and who is often seen by other people as someone who has high standards of behaviour: *Professional person wanted to rent small house.*

pro-fes-sor /prə'fesə/ *n* 1 *BrE* a teacher of the highest rank in a university department: *Professor Ward* | *a history professor* | *a professor of history* | *Certainly, professor.* —see also ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR 2 *AmE* any full member of the teaching body at a university or college 3 a title taken by those who teach or claim various skills: *Madame Clara, professor of dancing*

pro-fes-so-ri-al /,prɒfə'sɔːriəl/ *adj* of a university professor: *professorial rank* —~ally *adv*

pro-fes-sor-ship /prə'fesəʃɪp/ *n* the position of a university professor

prof-fer /'prɒfə/ *v* [T (to)] *fml* to offer, esp. by holding out in the hands for acceptance: *She refused the proffered drink.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *He proffered me a cigar.*

pro-fi-cient /prə'fɪʃənt/ *adj* [(at, in)] thoroughly skilled; well practised: *She is proficient at/in operating the computer.* | *a proficient typist* —~ly *adv* —**ciency** *n* [U (at, in)] : *a maths proficiency test*

pro-file ¹ /'prəʊfaɪl/ *n* 1 a side view, esp. of someone's head: *He drew her profile.* | *She photographed him in profile.* 2 an edge or shape of something seen against a background: *the sharp profile of the hills against the sky*

profile



3 the state of being noticed by other people around one: *He is attracting most of the criticism, partly because of his high political profile at the moment.* | *The government is trying to keep a low profile on this issue.* 4 [(of)] a short description, esp. of a person's life and character, esp. as given on television or in a newspaper: *an exclusive profile of the new tennis champion*

profile ² *v* [T] to draw, write, or show a profile of: *an article profiling the new Soviet leader*

prof-it ¹ /'prɒfɪt/ *n* 1 [C;U] money gained by trade or business: *There's very little profit in selling newspapers at present.* | *The company announced a trading profit/a pre-tax profit of £2 million for 1986, after making a loss in 1985.* | *We sold our house at a profit.* (=sold it for more than it had cost) | *They made a profit of £6000 on the deal.* | *I made a handsome (=very good) profit from the sale of my car.* | *a non-profit-making organization* | *a for-profit hospital chain* | *hoping to bring the system into profit this year* | *net/gross profit* 2 [U] *fml* advantage gained from some action: *reading for profit and pleasure* — *~less adj* — *~lessly adv*

profit ² *v* [T +obj(i)+obj(d)] *fml* or *old use* to be of advantage to (someone): *It will profit you nothing to do that.*

profit by/from sthg. *phr v* [T] to learn or gain advantage from (an experience, activity, etc.): *You can profit by my mistakes and avoid them yourself.* [+*v-ing*] *She has certainly profited from spending a year in England.*

prof-it-a-bil-i-ty /,prɒfɪtə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U] the state of being profitable or the degree to which a business or operation is profitable: *The company hopes to return to profitability this year.* | *high profitability*

prof-i-ta-ble /'prɒfɪtəbəl/ *adj* producing or resulting in profit or advantage: *a profitable deal* | *It's a very profitable little business.* | *We spent a profitable day cleaning out the cupboards.* — *opposite unprofitable* — *bly adv*

profit and loss ac-count /,prɒfɪt ˌlɒs əˈkaʊnt/ *n* a financial statement showing a company's income, spending, and profit over a certain period

prof-i-teer /,prɒfɪtɪə/ *n* *derog* a person who makes unfairly large profits, esp. by selling things at very high prices when much-needed goods are difficult to get: *black market profiteers* — **profiteer** *v* [I] — *~ing n* [U]: *arrested for profiteering*

profit mar-gin /'prɒfɪt ˌmɑːrɪn/ *n* the difference between the cost of production and the selling price: *a high profit margin*

profit shar-ing /'prɒfɪt ˌʃeɪrɪŋ/ *n* [U] a system according to which the workers share in the profits of a factory, business, etc.

prof-li-gate ¹ /'prɒflɪɡət/ *adj* 1 [(of)] carelessly and foolishly wasteful, esp. of money: *profligate spending by our local council* 2 *fml* wicked; shamelessly immoral — **gacy** *n* [U] *fml*

profligate ² *n fml* a profligate person

pro-found /prə'faʊnd/ *adj* 1 deep; very strongly felt; *INTENSE*: *There was a profound silence in the empty church.* | *The incident made a profound impression on me.* 2 often *apprec* having or using thorough knowledge and deep understanding: *a profound thinker* | *a very profound remark* 3 [A] *lit* or *fml* deep; far below the surface: *in the profound depths of the ocean* 4 *tech* complete: *profound deafness* — *~ly adv*: *I am profoundly grateful.*

Pro-fu-mo Scan-dal /prəʊ'fjuːməʊ ˌskændl/ [*the*] also **Profumo Af-fair** /'prɒfjuːməʊ ˌæfɪə/ — the sexual relationship, which became public in 1963, between John Profumo, the Minister of War in the Conservative government, and a young woman, Christine Keeler, and the activities of others connected with this. After first lying in Parliament about the affair, Profumo later admitted to it and was forced to RESIGN. It was discovered that Keeler had also had an affair with a Russian naval officer but an official report later said that no national secrets had been given away. Newspaper reports of wild parties and sexual behaviour involving important public figures mixing with criminals shocked the public and severely em-

barrassed the government. — see also Mandy RICE-DAVIES

pro-fun-di-ty /prə'fʌndɪti/ *n fml* 1 [U] the quality of being profound, esp. in feeling or understanding 2 [C *usu. pl.*] something profound, esp. a profound thought or idea

pro-fuse /prə'fjuːs/ *adj* 1 produced, flowing, or poured out freely and in great quantity: *a profuse mass of curls* | *profuse tears* | *profuse apologies* 2 [F (in, of)] (too) eager, free, or generous in giving (praise, thanks, etc.): *She was profuse in her thanks.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

pro-fu-sion /prə'fjuːzən/ *n fml* [S (of);U] large supply; great or too great amount: *flowers growing in profusion* | *The room was spoilt by a profusion of ugly little ornaments.*

pro-gen-i-tor /prəʊ'dʒenɪtə/ *n* [(of)] *tech* or *fml* a person or thing from the distant past, from which someone or something is descended; ANCESTOR or PRECURSOR: *Schoenberg was a progenitor of modern music.*

prog-e-ny /'prɒdʒɪni/ *n* [U +sing./pl. *v*] 1 *tech* or *lit* the descendants of a person, animal, or plant form 2 sometimes *humor* a person's children or an animal's young: *Her numerous progeny were all asleep.*

pro-ges-ter-one /prəʊ'dʒestərən/ *n* [U] a substance in the female organs that prepares the UTERUS (=the child-bearing part) for its work. Because it stops the production of eggs from the OVARY, it is widely used in making the PILL (2).

prog-na-thous /prɒg'neɪθəs/ *adj tech* having or being a jaw that sticks out

prog-no-sis /prɒg'nəʊsɪs/ *n* -ses /sɪz/ 1 *med* a doctor's opinion, based on medical experience, of what course a disease will probably take — compare DIAGNOSIS 2 *fml* judgment about the future based on information or experience

prog-nos-ti-cate /prɒg'nɒstɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* or *humor* to say or be a sign of (what is going to happen) — **cator** *n* — **cation** /prɒg'nɒstɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pro-gram ¹ /'prəʊgræm/ *n* 1 a list of instructions that must be given to a computer in order to make it perform an operation: *to write a program* | *a new program for forecasting our sales figures* 2 *AmE* a programme

program ² *v* -mm- or -m- [T] 1 to supply (a computer) with a program: *a programming language* [+obj+to-*v*] *The computer can be programmed to list all the French words in the dictionary* 2 *AmE* to programme

pro-gram-er /'prəʊgræmə/ *n* a PROGRAMMER

pro-gram-ma-ble /'prəʊgræməbəl/ *adj* controllable by means of a program: *a programmable heating system*

pro-gram-me ¹ *BrE* || -gram *AmE* /'prəʊgræm/ *n* 1 a (printed) list of performers or things to be performed at a concert, a theatre, a sports competition, etc.: *According to the programme, the first race starts at two.* 2 a complete show or performance, esp. one made up of several different parts: *What is your favourite TV programme?* | *a current affairs programme on the radio* 3 a list of planned activities; plan for future action: *The hospital building programme has been delayed by lack of money.* (esp. *AmE*) *The Republican Party's election program promises big tax cuts.* 4 *BrE* a set of actions performed in order by a machine such as a washing machine or MICROWAVE: *I think it would be best to do it on the wool programme.* | *The microwave has a separate programme for defrosting.*

programme ² *BrE* || -gram *AmE* — *v* -mm- [T] to plan or arrange: [+obj+to-*v*] *The central heating system/washing machine/microwave is programmed to start working at six o'clock.*

programmed course /,prɒgɾæmɪd ˌkɔːrs/ *n* an educational course in which the material is arranged in a book or a machine to be seen in small amounts, each of which must be learnt and tested before passing on to the next

programmed learn-ing /,prɒgɾæmɪd ˌlɜːnɪŋ/ *n* [U] an educational system in which one teaches oneself by means of a PROGRAMMED COURSE

programme mu-sic /'prɒgɾæmə ˌmjuːzɪk/ *n* [U] descriptive music, using sound to suggest a story, picture, etc.

pro-gram-mer, **programer** /'prəʊgræmə/ *n* a person who writes computer programs

pro-gress ¹ /'prəʊgres/ *n* 1 [U] forward movement in space; advance: *The ship made slow progress through*

the rough sea. **2** [U] continual improvement or development towards an intended or desired result: *Jane is still in hospital, but she's making (good|rapid) progress.* (=is getting better) | *He's not making much progress with his English.* | *Progress in the peace talks has been rather disappointing.* **3** [U] the process of continuing or being done: *Please do not enter the classroom while a lesson is in progress.* **4** [C] *old use* an official ceremonial journey, esp. of a king or queen

pro-gress² /prə'gres/ *v* [I] **1** to move forward in space or time; advance: *It became hotter and hotter as the day progressed.* | *Later he progressed to more difficult tasks.* **2** to improve; develop favourably: *Work on the new road is progressing quite well.* | *"Your father is progressing nicely," said the nurse.* —compare REGRESS

pro-gres-sion /prə'gresʃən/ *n* **1** [S;U] (the action of) progressing, esp. by stages **2** [C] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a set of numbers that vary in a particular way —see also ARITHMETIC PROGRESSION, GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION

pro-gres-sive¹ /prə'gresiv/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] moving forward or developing continuously or by stages: *a progressive decline in exports* | *progressive loss of sight in old age* **2** *usu. apprec* favouring change or new ideas, e.g. in politics or education: *a progressive thinker|school* | *This is a progressive firm that uses the most modern systems.* **3** [no comp.] *tech* (of a verb form) showing action that is continuing. Progressive forms are shown in English by **be**+PRESENT PARTICIPLE, as in "They are waiting for a bus" or "She was reading a book". Verbs that cannot be used like this, such as "know", are marked [not in progressive forms] in this dictionary. —*~ly adv*: *It got progressively worse|better.* —*~ness n* [U]

progressive² *n* a person with progressive ideas, esp. about social change

Progressive Con-ser-vative Par-ty /ˌprɒˌɡresɪv ˌkɒnsəˈveɪtɪv ˈpɑːtɪ/ [the] one of the main political parties in Canada: *Prime Minister Mulroney's Progresssive Conservatives have tried to placate the separatist Québécois.*

Progressive Par-ty /ˌprɒˌɡresɪv ˈpɑːtɪ/ [the] any of three separate political organizations in the US that were active in the presidential elections of 1912, 1924, and 1948 and were in favour of social REFORM

progressive tax /ˌprɒˌɡresɪv ˈtæks/ *n* a tax that takes a larger PERCENTAGE of money from people with higher incomes than from those with low incomes —compare REGRESSIVE TAX

progress re-port /ˌprɒˌɡres ˈriːpɔːt/ *n* a statement about how something, esp. work, is advancing or developing

pro-hib-it /prə'hɪbɪt/ *v* [T (from)] *fml* **1** to forbid by law or rule: *Smoking in this railway carriage is (strictly) prohibited.* | *We are prohibited from drinking alcohol during working hours.* **2** to prevent; make impossible: *The price prohibited us from buying it.*

pro-hi-bi-tion /ˌprəʊhɪˈbɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U (of)] the act of prohibiting something **2** [C (against)] *fml* an order forbidding something **3** [U] (*usu. cap.*) the forbidding by law of the making or sale of alcoholic drinks

Prohibition the period from 1919 to 1933 in the US when the making, sale, and TRANSPORT of alcoholic drinks was forbidden by law. It was impossible to make people obey the law and there was a lot of criminal activity. Prohibition is the subject of many American films. —see also BOOTLEG, SPEAKEASY

pro-hi-bi-tion-ist /ˌprəʊhɪˈbɪʃənɪst/ *n* a person who supports PROHIBITION (3)

pro-hib-i-tive /prə'hɪbɪtɪv/ *adj* preventing or tending to discourage something: *The government has put a prohibitive tax (=higher than anyone can pay) on foreign goods.* —*~ly adv*: *prohibitively expensive*

pro-hib-i-to-ry /prə'hɪbɪtəri/ *adj fml* intended to prohibit something: *a prohibitory gesture*

project¹ /ˈprɒdʒekt/ *v* **1** a piece of work that needs skill, effort, and careful planning, esp. over a period of time: *In their geography class, the children are doing a special project on Native Americans.* | *The new dam is a major construction project, funded by the government.* **2** *AmE* a HOUSING PROJECT

project² /prə'dʒekt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) stick out beyond an edge or surface: *a signpost projecting from the wall* **2** [T (at, into)] to throw through the air with force; PROPEL: *to project a missile into space* | (fig.) *Try to project your*

mind into the future and imagine what life will be like then. **3** [T *usu. pass.*] to think about as a likely course of action; plan: *our projected visit to Australia* | *projected cuts in government expenditure* **4** to judge or calculate, using the information one has: *projected sales figures* **5** [T (into, onto)] to cause (heat, sound, light, or shadow) to be directed into space or onto a surface: *I had no screen, so I projected the slides onto an old white sheet.* | *A singer must learn to project his voice so as to be heard in a large hall.* —see also PROJECTOR **6** [I;T] to express or represent (oneself or one's qualities) outwardly, esp. in a way that has a favourable effect on others: *to project oneself in order to make a good impression on an interviewer* **7** [I;T (on, onto)] to imagine (one's own esp. bad feelings or thoughts) as being experienced by others: *Don't project your guilt feelings onto me!* **8** [T] *tech* a to make a picture of (a solid, esp. curved, object) on a flat surface b to make (a map) by this means

pro-jec-tile /prə'dʒektɪl/ *n fml or tech* an object or weapon that is thrown or shot forward, esp. from a gun

pro-jec-tion /prə'dʒekʃən/ *n* **1** [C] something that sticks out from a surface: *small projections from the wall of the cave* **2** [C (of)] something planned, esp. a guess of future possibilities, based on the general direction of events at a particular time: *These figures show our projection of the town's population increase over the next ten years.* **3** [C] an image, sound, etc., that has been projected **4** [U] the act of projecting **5** [C] *tech* a figure, esp. a map, that has been projected —see also MERCATOR PROJECTION

pro-jec-tion-ist /prə'dʒekʃənɪst/ *n* a person who works a cinema projector

pro-jec-tor /prə'dʒektə/ *n* an apparatus for projecting films or pictures onto a surface —see also OVERHEAD PROJECTOR

Pro-kof-i-ev /prə'kɒfɪeɪ/ *n* **Ser-gei** /'seɪdʒeɪ/ *n* (1891–1953) a Russian COMPOSER, whose works include the *Classical Symphony*, the BALLET *Romeo and Juliet*, and the musical story *Peter and the Wolf*

pro-lapse /prəʊ'læps/ *v* [I] *med* (of an inner body organ, such as the bowel) to slip or fall down out of the proper place: *a prolapsed uterus* —**pro-lapse** /'prəʊlæps/ *n*

prole /prəʊl/ *n derog* a member of the proletariat

pro-le-gom-e-na /ˌprəʊlɪˈɡɒməˌnə/ *n* **-ena** /ˌnə/ *fml* a written introduction to a serious book

pro-le-tar-i-an /ˌprəʊlɪˈteəriən/ *n, adj often derog* (a member) of the proletariat

pro-le-tar-i-at /ˌprəʊlɪˈteəriət/ *n* [the+sing./pl. *v*] the class of workers who own little or no property and have to work for wages, esp. at unskilled jobs in the city. This word is used esp. by Karl Marx who believed that in time the industrial proletariat would win their struggle against CAPITALISM.

pro-life /ˌprəʊˈlaɪf/ *adj euph* opposed to ABORTION

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the US, pro-life groups are very active and LOBBY Congress. Some **pro-lifers** have even used violence, such as throwing bombs at CLINICS that perform abortions. Pro-life groups will often protest at such hospitals and clinics by walking in front of them holding signs with pro-life SLOGANS on them. —see also LIFE; compare PRO-CHOICE; see also ABORTION (CULTURE NOTE) ◀

pro-lif-er /ˌprəʊˈlaɪfə/ *n* a person who is opposed to ABORTION

pro-lif-e-rate /prəˈlɪfəreɪt/ *v* [I] to increase rapidly in numbers or by producing new parts: *During the 1980s, computer companies proliferated.*

pro-lif-e-ra-tion /prəˈlɪfəˈreɪʃən/ *n* **1** [S;U] a rapid increase or spreading: *the proliferation of nuclear weapons* —see also NONPROLIFERATION **2** [C] *tech* (in BIOLOGY) a part formed by the division of cells

pro-lif-ic /prəˈlɪfɪk/ *adj* **1** producing many young, fruit, etc.: *Rats are very prolific.* | *prolific plants* **2** *usu. apprec* producing many works: *a prolific writer* | *During their most prolific years, this research team was publishing new evidence every month.* —*~ally* /kli/ *adv*

pro-lix /ˈprəʊlɪks/ *adj fml* (of a speech, writer, etc.) using too many words and therefore tiringly and uninterestingly long; WORDY —*~ity* /prəˈlɪksɪti/ *n* [U]

Pro-log /ˈprəʊlɒɡ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a computer language often used for educational purposes

pro-logue || also **prolog** *AmE* /ˈprəʊlɒɡ/ *n* [(to)]

1 (sometimes cap.) an introduction to a play, long poem, etc. — compare EPILOGUE (1) **2** an act or event that leads up to and causes another more important set of events: *The border incident proved to be just the prologue to a full-scale invasion.*

pro-long /prə'lonj/ -'lɔ:ŋ/ *v* [T] to make longer; lengthen: *She tried desperately to prolong the conversation.* | *He prolonged his visit by two weeks.* — compare PROTRACT

pro-lon-ga-tion /,prəʊlɒŋ'geɪʃən/ -lɔ:ŋ-/ *n* **1** [U] the action of prolonging something **2** [C (of)] something added that prolongs something

pro-longed /prə'lonjd/ -'lɔ:ŋd/ *adj* continuing for a long time: *a prolonged silence/absence*

prom /prɒm/||prɑ:m/ *n* **1** *AmE* a formal dance party given for students in a HIGH SCHOOL or college class

► **CULTURAL NOTE** The most important prom in high school is the **Senior Prom**, which is held at the end of the school year for the students who are in their last (SENIOR) year of high school. It is often held either in the high school GYMNASIUM or in a room with a dance floor at a hotel. Usually boys ask girls to go with them, but sometimes people go as a group of friends. There are usu. parties after the prom is over. ◀

2 *BrE infml* for PROMENADE¹ (1): *sitting on the prom, smelling the fresh sea air* **3** (often cap.) *BrE infml* for PROMENADE CONCERT

prom-e-nade¹ /,prɒmə'næd-/, 'prɒməna:d/||,prɑ:mə'neɪd-/ *n* **1** a wide path beside a road along the coast in a holiday town — compare FRONT¹ (3) **2** *fml* an unhurried walk, ride, or drive for pleasure or exercise

promenade² *v fml* **1** [I; T] to walk slowly up and down along (a place, street, etc.) **2** [T] sometimes derog to take on an unhurried walk, ride, or drive, esp. for show

promenade con-cert /'... ,-/ *n* (sometimes caps.) (esp. in Britain) a concert at which parts of the hall have no seats and are used by listeners who stand. A number of these CLASSICAL MUSIC concerts are held over a period of several weeks every summer in the Royal Albert Hall and are usu. called the Proms. Established by Henry Wood in 1895 and conducted (CONDUCT¹ (4)) for many years by Sir Malcolm Sargent, they have become a well-known national event. In particular, the last night of the Proms is a special occasion. — see also LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

promenade deck /'... ,-/ *n* an upper DECK of a passenger ship, usu. open at the sides, where people may walk

Pro-me-the-us /prə'mi:θiəs, -θju:s/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a GIANT who stole fire from heaven to give to men. He was kept in chains and punished by Zeus, and was finally freed by Hercules. He is the subject of many works of literature.

prom-i-nence /'prɒmɪnəns/||'prɑ:-/ *n* **1** [U] the fact or quality of being prominent or noticeable; importance: *The newspapers gave the story undue prominence.* | *This young fashion designer is rising to/coming into prominence.* (=attracting more and more attention) **2** [C] *fml* a part or place that is PROMINENT (1)

prom-i-nent /'prɒmɪnənt/||'prɑ:-/ *adj* **1** sticking or stretching out beyond a surface: *She has prominent teeth.* **2** noticeable; easily seen: *Our house is in a prominent position.* **3** of great importance, fame, etc.: *a prominent musician/citizen/critic of the government* — ~ly *adv*

pro-mis-cu-ous /prə'mɪskjuəs/ *adj* **1** derog having many sexual partners: *a promiscuous girl/life* **2** *fml* of many sorts mixed together in a disorderly way **3** *fml* not choosing carefully; INDISCRIMINATE — ~ly *adv* — ~ity /,prɒmɪ'skju:zəti/||,prɑ:-/ *n* [U] : the dangers of promiscuity

prom-ise¹ /'prɒmɪs/||'prɑ:-/ *n* [(of)] **1** [C] a statement, which someone else has a right to believe and depend on, that one will or will not do something, give something, etc.: *If you make a promise you shouldn't break it.* | *Do politicians ever keep their promises?* (=do what they say they will do) [+to-v/that] *Despite their promise to bring down inflation/that they would bring down inflation, prices have gone on rising.* | *a promise of help/support* | *a solemn promise* | *campaign promises* | *a government that can deliver its promises* **2** [S;U] expectation or signs of future success, good results, etc.: *The news brings little promise of peace.* | *My son is showing great promise as a cricketer.*

promise² *v* **1** [I;T (to)] to make a promise to do or give

(something) or that (something) will be done: *They have promised their support.* | *"She's not coming tonight."* "But she promised!" | *"I'll do it tomorrow."* "Promise?" "Yes, I promise." [+to-v] *I promise not to be late again.* [+ (that)] *They promised (that) the work would all be finished by next week.* [+obj+(that)] *I promised my mother (that) I'd write to her.* | *I can't give you the book; I've promised it to Susan.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Her parents have promised her a new bike if she passes the exam.* | *She's been promised a new bike.* | **I promise you**, (=I warn you), *the work won't be easy.* **2** [T] to cause one to expect or hope for (something): *The clear sky promises fine weather.* [+to-v] *It promises to be a fine day.* **3** **promise someone the moon/the earth** *infml* to promise to give someone something that is beyond one's ability to give

Promised Land /,prɒmɪst 'lænd/ *n* **1** [the] (in the Bible) the land of Canaan promised by God to Abraham and his people **2** [(the) S] a place or condition not yet experienced which one believes will bring happiness

prom-is-ing /'prɒmɪsɪŋ/||'prɑ:-/ *adj* *apprec* showing signs of likely future success; full of PROMISE¹ (2): *a promising young singer* — opposite **unpromising** — ~ly *adv*

prom-is-sory note /,prɒmɪsəri 'nəʊt/||,prɑ:mɪsɔ:ri-/ *n* a written promise to pay a certain sum of money on demand or on a stated date

pro-mo /'prəʊməʊ/ *n* -s *infml* something, such as a short film, intended to advertise a product or activity

prom-on-to-ry /'prɒməntəri/||'prɑ:məntɔ:ri/ *n* a long narrow point of land stretching out into the sea; HEADLAND

pro-mote /prə'məʊt/ *v* [T] **1** [(to)] a to give (someone) a higher position or rank: *My daughter's just been promoted!* | *The young army officer was promoted to (the rank of) captain.* [+obj+n] (esp. *BrE*) *They promoted him captain.* — opposite **demote** **b** esp. *BrE* to put (a team) up to a higher level in a sports competition: *After this win, Manchester United were promoted to the First Division.* — compare RELEGATE **2** to help actively in forming or arranging (a business, concert, play, etc.): *to promote a boxing match* | *to promote a bill in Parliament* (=introduce and support it) **3** to bring (goods) to public notice in order to encourage people to buy: *a big advertising campaign to promote our new toothpaste* **4** *fml* to help in the growth or development of: *Milk promotes health.* | *new efforts to promote the cause of world peace*

pro-mot-er /prə'məʊtə/ *n* a person whose job is to promote events, activities, goods, etc. (PROMOTE (2,3))

pro-mo-tion /prə'məʊʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an) advancement in rank or position: *Congratulations on your promotion!* | *There are good chances of promotion in this firm.* **2** [C;U] (an) activity intended to help the development or success of something, esp. of a product for sale: *This year's sales promotions haven't been very successful.* | *a video promotion of a pop record* **3** [C] a product that is being promoted: *one of our latest promotions* — ~al *adj*

prompt¹ /prɒmpt/||prɑ:mp/ *v* **1** [T] to cause or urge: *The sight of the ships prompted thoughts of his distant home.* | *What prompted that remark?* [+obj+to-v] *His evasive reply prompted me to ask another question.* **2** [I; T] to remind (an actor) of the next words in a speech — see also PROMPT⁴ **3** [T] to help (a speaker who pauses) by suggesting how to continue: *to prompt a witness in court*

prompt² *adj* **1** (of an action) done quickly, at once, or at the right time: *Prompt payment of bills is greatly appreciated.* **2** [F] (of a person) a arriving at the right time; PUNCTUAL: *I can't understand it; she's usually very prompt.* **b** quick to take action: *She's always prompt to criticize other people's ideas.* | *He is always prompt in answering letters.* — ~ly *adv* : *The performance will begin promptly at nine o'clock.* — ~ness *n* [U] — ~itude *fml*

prompt³ *adv infml* exactly in regard to time: *The performance will start at seven o'clock prompt.*

prompt⁴ *n* **1** a word or words spoken in prompting an actor **2** also **prompt-er** /'prɒmptə/||'prɑ:mp/- a person who prompts actors

Proms /prɒmz/||prɑ:mz/ [the+P] *BrE* see PROMENADE CONCERT

prom-ul-gate /'prɒməlgɛɪt/||'prɑ:-/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to cause (a law or religious rule) to be brought into effect by official public declaration **2** to spread (a belief, idea, etc.) widely — **-gator** *n* — **-gation** /,prɒməl'geɪʃən/||,prɑ:-/ *n* [U]

pron written abbrev. for: PRONOUN

prone /prəʊn/ *adj* 1 [F+to-v/to] likely to suffer (usu. something undesirable): *People are more prone to make mistakes when they are tired.* | *Women are especially prone to this disease.* | *strike-prone industries* | *Mary's always hurting herself; she's very accident-prone.* 2 *fml* lying on one's front, face downwards: *They stepped over his prone body.* —compare PROSTRATE, SUPINE (1) — ~ **ness** *n* [U (to)]

prong /prɒŋ||prɔ:ŋ/ *n* 1 a thin sharp-pointed piece or part, such as part of a fork or one of the branched horns of a deer 2 **-pronged** /prɒŋd||prɔ:nd/ *a* having the stated number of prongs: *a four-pronged fork* **b** (of an attack) coming from a stated number of different directions at the same time: *a two-pronged attack*

pro-nom-i-nal /prəʊ'nɒmɪnəl||-'nɑ:z-/ *adj* *tech* of or like a pronoun — ~ **ly** *adv*: *a word used pronominally*

pro-noun /'prəʊnaʊn/ *n* a word that is used in place of a noun or a noun phrase, such as *he* instead of "Peter" or instead of "the man" —see also DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN, PERSONAL PRONOUN

pro-nounce /prə'naʊns/ *v* 1 [T] to make the sound of (a letter, a word, etc.): *In the word "knew", the "k" is not pronounced.* | *How do you pronounce your name?* 2 [T+obj+adj/n] to declare, esp. officially or after consideration: *The doctor pronounced the man dead.* | *The priest said, "I now pronounce you man and wife."* 3 [I+prep] *esp. law* to give judgment: *The court pronounced against my claim to the land.* | (fig.) *She's too ready to pronounce on/upon matters of which she really knows very little.*

pro-nounce-a-ble /prə'naʊnsəbəl/ *adj* (of a sound, a word, etc.) that can be pronounced —opposite **unpronounceable**

pro-nounced /prə'naʊnst/ *adj* very strong or noticeable: *He has very pronounced ideas on everything.* | *a pronounced limp* — ~ **ly** /prə'naʊnsɪdli/ *adv*

pro-nounce-ment /prə'naʊnsmənt/ *n* a solemn declaration or statement: *The Pope made a pronouncement on the subject of the war.*

pron-to /'prɒntəʊ||'praɪn-/ *adv infml* at once; very quickly: *Bring the ladder over here(, and) pronto!*

pro-nun-ci-a-tion /prə'nansi'eɪʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U] the way in which a language or a particular word is pronounced: *the right pronunciation* 2 [S;U] a particular person's way of pronouncing words or a language: *excellent pronunciation*

proof 1 /pru:f/ *n* 1 [C;U (of)] (a) way of showing that something is true; facts, information, documents, etc., that prove something: *I believe what you say; I don't need any proof.* [+that] *Have you got any proof that you own this car/proof of ownership?* | *to produce conclusive/definite proof* | *scientific proof* —see also BURDEN OF PROOF 2 [C] a test or trial of quality, strength, etc.: *A soldier's courage is put to the proof in battle.* 3 [C] *tech* a test copy made of something printed, so that mistakes can be put right before the proper printing is done 4 [U or after *n*] *tech* the standard of strength of some kinds of alcoholic drink (compared with that of PROOF SPIRIT): *This gin is 15 per cent under proof.* 5 [C] *tech* a (in MATHEMATICS) a test made of the correctness of a calculation **b** (in GEOMETRY) the reasoning that shows a statement (THEOREM) to be true 6 **the proof of the pudding is in the eating** it is only possible to tell if something is good or bad by testing, using, or experiencing it

proof 2 *adj* 1 [F+against] giving or having protection against something harmful or unwanted: *His honesty is proof against any temptation.* | (in comb.) *a bullet-proof vest* | *a waterproof coat* | *a soundproof room* | *an inflation-proof pension* —see also FOOLPROOF 2 [after *n*] (of certain types of alcoholic drink) of the stated alcoholic strength in comparison with some standard: *In the US, whiskey of 90 proof is 45% alcohol.*

proof 3 *v* [T (against)] to treat (esp. cloth) in order to give protection against something unwanted, esp. water

-proof see WORD FORMATION

proof-read /'pru:f,ri:d/ *v* -read /red/ [I;T] to read and correct the printer's proofs of (a book, etc.) — ~ **er** *n*

proof spir-it /, -' -/ *n* [U] a standard mixture of alcohol and water with which the strength of certain alcoholic drinks is compared for the purposes of taxation

Proops /pru:ps/, **Mar-jo-rie** /'mɑ:dʒəri || 'mɑ:r-/ *Marje*

/mɑ:dʒ || mɑ:rdʒ/ a well known English AGONY AUNT who writes regularly in the DAILY MIRROR

prop 1 /prɒp||pra:p/ *n* a support placed to hold up something heavy: *The roof of the tunnel was supported by wooden props.* | (fig.) *Her daughter was a prop to her during her illness.* —see also PIT PROP

prop 2 *v* -pp- [T+obj+adv/prep] to support or keep in a leaning or resting position: *She propped up the baby's head by putting a pillow behind it.* | *Prop the gate open with a brick.* | *He propped his bicycle (up) against the fence.*

prop sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] sometimes *derog* to help or give support to (often with money): *It is not the government's policy to prop up declining industries.*

prop 3 also **property** *fml* — *n* [usu. pl.] a small article, such as a weapon or piece of furniture, that is used on the stage in the acting of a play

prop 4 *n infml* an aircraft's PROPELLER

prop-a-gan-da /,prɒpə'gændə||,pra:z-/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* information that is spread in a planned or official way, esp. by a government, in order to influence public opinion: *Their speeches have been exposed as pure propaganda.* | *a massive propaganda campaign* | *anti-French propaganda* | *propaganda films/slogans*

prop-a-gan-dist /,prɒpə'gændɪst||,pra:z-/ *n* *usu. derog* a person who plans or spreads esp. political propaganda

prop-a-gan-dize also **-dise** *BrE* /,prɒpə'gændəɪz||,pra:z-/ *v* [I;T] *usu. derog* to spread propaganda in (a place) or to (people)

prop-a-gate /'prɒpəgeɪt||'pra:z-/ *v* 1 [I] (of living things) to increase in number by producing young: *Most plants propagate by seed.* 2 [T] to cause to continue or increase by producing descendants: *Human beings propagate their species by sexual reproduction.* 3 [T] to cause to spread to a great number of people: *They started a newspaper to propagate their ideas.* —**gator** *n* —**gation** /,prɒpə'geɪʃən||,pra:z-/ *n* [U]

pro-pane /'prəʊpeɪn/ *n* [U] a colourless gas used for cooking and heating

pro-pel /prə'pel/ *v* -ll- [T] to move, drive, or push forward: *A sailing boat is propelled by wind.* | *a rocket-propelled grenade* —see also PROPULSION

pro-pel-lant, **-lent** /prə'pelənt/ *n* [C;U] 1 (an) explosive for firing a bullet or ROCKET 2 (a) gas pressed into a small space in a bottle, which drives out the contents of the bottle when the pressure is taken away —**propellant**, **propellent** *adj*

pro-pel-ler /prə'peləɾ/ *n* an apparatus for producing movement in a ship or aircraft, consisting of two or more blades fixed to a central bar that is turned at high speed by an engine —see picture at WINDMILL

pro-pel-ling pen-cil /, -' -/ *n* a pencil in which the stick of LEAD 4 (2) is pushed forward by an apparatus inside the pencil as the lead is used up

pro-pen-si-ty /prə'pensɪti/ *n* [(for, to, towards)] *fml* a natural tendency towards a particular usu. undesirable kind of behaviour: *a propensity for upsetting people* [+to-v] *a propensity to spend too much money*

prop-er 1 /'prɒpəɾ||'pra:z-/ *adj* 1 [A no comp.] right; suitable; correct: *She's too ill to be nursed at home; she needs proper medical attention at a hospital.* | *That's not the proper way to stop the machine.* | *without proper authorization* | *the proper role of the press* 2 sometimes *derog* (paying great attention to what is) socially correct or acceptable: *That short dress isn't really proper for wearing to a funeral.* | *Why are you surprised? It's only right and proper that his wife should inherit all his money.* —see also IMPROPER, PROPRIETY 3 [A] *BrE infml* real; actual: *The little boy wanted a proper dog, not a toy dog.* 4 [after *n*] in its actual, most limited meaning; itself: *Many people call themselves Londoners though they live outside the city proper.* 5 [A no comp.] *infml, esp. BrE* (often of something unpleasant or undesirable) thorough; complete: *We've got ourselves into a proper mess.* | *I felt a proper fool.* 6 [F+to] *fml* belonging only or especially to; natural to: *to wear clothes proper to a tropical climate* —see also PROPERLY

proper 2 *adv sl, esp. dial* very; completely: *He drove the car into a wall and wrecked it, good and proper!*

proper frac-tion /, -' -/ *n* a FRACTION in which the number above the line is smaller than the one below it: $\frac{1}{4}$ and

pro·pose /prə'pəʊz/ *v* 1 [T] to put forward for consideration (a possible course of action, a plan to be voted on by a meeting, etc.); suggest: *What do you propose we do?* | *The company has proposed a new formula for settling the dispute.* | *I wish to propose Charles Robson for membership of the club.* | *to propose a motion* [+*v-ing*|*that*] *I propose delaying our decision until the next meeting*|*that we delay our decision until the next meeting.* —see also SECOND⁴ 2 [T] *fml* to have formed a plan for; intend: *We propose an early holiday in the spring.* [+*to-v*] *I propose to go to London on Tuesday.* | *How do you propose to finance this venture?* 3 [I (to); T] (usu. of a man) to make an offer of (marriage). In Britain and the US it is the custom for a man to propose to a woman. The man is supposed to kneel in front of the woman and ask her to marry him. On the 29th of February (the last day in February in a LEAP YEAR), however, a woman may by custom propose to a man. These customs are not followed as much as they used to be. 4 [T] *fml* to ask a social gathering to offer (a wish for success, happiness, etc.) to someone, while raising a glass of wine which is afterwards drunk (usu. in the phrases **propose a toast**/**propose someone's health**) —**poser** *n*

prop·o·si·tion¹ /,prəpə'zɪʃən||,prəz-/ *n* 1 [C] an unproved statement in which an opinion or judgment is expressed 2 [C] a suggested (business) offer, arrangement, or settlement: *We made him a proposition: he would join us, and we would support his company.* | *I have a proposition to put to you ...* 3 [S] *infml* a person or situation of the stated type that must be dealt with: *We could build a tunnel instead of a bridge, but that's a much more difficult proposition.* 4 [C] *euph* a suggested offer to have sex with someone: *He made me a proposition.* —compare PROPOSAL (2) 5 [C] *tech* (in GEOMETRY) a truth that must be proved, or a question to which the answer must be found — *~al adj*

proposition² *v* [T] *infml* to make a PROPOSITION¹ (esp. 4) to (someone)

Proposition 13 /,prəpəzɪʃən θɜ:'tɪzən||,prəz:pəzɪʃən θɜ:r-/ also **Prop 13**— a law which was voted on directly and passed by California voters in 1978 rather than by California state LEGISLATURE (law-making body), which reduced taxes on property. The passage of Proposition 13 in California led voters in other states to vote for similar laws and is seen by some people as the first of many tax cuts introduced by the state and national government in the 1980s.

pro·pound /prə'paʊnd/ *v* [T] *fml* to put forward as a question or matter for consideration: *to propound a problem/a theory*

pro·pri·e·ta·ry /prə'praɪətəri||-teri/ *adj* 1 privately owned or controlled: *proprietary brands of toothpaste* 2 of or like an owner: *Jane has rather a proprietary manner with her boyfriend.*

pro·pri·e·ties /prə'praɪətɪz/ *n* [*the+P*] *fml* the accepted rules of proper social behaviour: *to observe the proprieties*

pro·pri·e·tor /prə'praɪətər/ **pro·pri·e·tress** /prə'praɪətrɪs/ *fem.*— *n* an owner of a business, an invention, etc.: *newspaper proprietors* (=people who own the businesses that produce newspapers) | *I've written a complaint to the proprietor of the hotel.* — *~ial* /prə,praɪə'tɔ:riəl/ *adj* : *proprietary rights* — *~ially adv*

pro·pri·e·ty /prə'praɪəti/ *n* [U] *fml* 1 correctness of social or moral behaviour, esp. between men and women or between people of different social ranks, age, etc.: *to behave with complete propriety* 2 rightness or reasonableness: *I doubt the propriety of making a public statement on the matter before we have studied the official reports.* —see also IMPROPRIETY

pro·pul·sion /prə'pʌlʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the force that PROPELS (=drives forward) something, esp. a vehicle: *This aircraft works by jet propulsion.* (=has JET engines) —*~sive* /prə'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* : *propulsive force*

pro ra·ta /,prəʊ 'rɑ:tə||-'reitə/ *adj, adv tech* calculated according to the rate, fair share, etc., of each: *a pro rata increase*

pro·rate /prəʊ'reɪt/ *v* [T] *AmE* to calculate (a charge, price, etc.) according to a larger amount divided into parts: *Your rent will be prorated from the 21st of the month, since that's when you moved in.*

pro·ro·gue /prəʊ'rəʊg, prə-/ *v* [T] *tech* to bring to an end a

set of meetings of (a parliament) until a stated day —**ro·ga·tion** /,prəʊrə'geɪʃən||,prəʊrəʊ-/ *n* [C;U]

pro·sa·ic /prəʊ'zeɪ-ɪk, prə-/ *adj* 1 dull; uninteresting: *a prosaic job/speech* 2 lacking feeling and imagination: *He's too prosaic to think of sending me flowers.* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

pros and cons /,prəʊz ən 'kɒnz||-'kɑ:nz/ *n* [*the+P*] the reasons for and against something: *to consider all the pros and cons of a matter before reaching a decision*

pro·sce·ni·um /prə'si:niəm, prəʊ-/ *n* 1 the front arch of a theatre stage, where a curtain may be lowered 2 the part of a stage that comes forward beyond this

pro·scribe /prəʊ'skraɪb/ *v* [T] 1 *fml* to forbid (esp. something dangerous or harmful), esp. by law 2 *old use* to state publicly that (a citizen) is outside the protection of the law —compare PRESCRIBE —**scrip·tion** /prəʊ'skrɪpʃən, prə-/ *n* [C;U]

prose /prəʊz/ *n* 1 [U] written language in its usual form, as opposed to POETRY: *Newspapers are written in prose.* | *He writes a very clear simple prose.* | *a prose translation of Homer's epic poems* —compare POETIC 2 [C] *BrE* a student's exercise in translating a piece of writing into a foreign language: *I've got two French proeses to do.* —see also PROSY

pros·e·cute /'prɒsɪkjʊt||'prɑ:z-/ *v* 1 [I; T (for)] to bring a criminal charge against (someone) in a court of law: *He was prosecuted for stealing.* | *The police have decided not to prosecute (him).* 2 [I] (of a lawyer) to represent in court the person who is bringing a criminal charge against someone —compare DEFEND (3) 3 [T] *fml* to continue steadily (esp. something that needs effort); carry out: *to prosecute an investigation*

pros·e·cu·tion /,prɒsɪ'kjʊʃən||,prɑ:z-/ *n* 1 [C;U] (an example of) prosecuting or being prosecuted by law 2 [*the+sing./pl. v*] the group of people who represent the person bringing a criminal charge against someone in court: *a witness for the prosecution* | *The prosecution is/are trying to show that he was seen near the scene of the crime.* —compare DEFENCE (4) 3 [U] *fml* the carrying out of something that needs to be done: *She has to travel a great deal in the prosecution of her duties.*

pros·e·cu·tor /'prɒsɪkjʊ:tər||'prɑ:z-/ *n* a person (often a lawyer) who prosecutes someone —see also PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

pros·e·lyte /'prɒsɪlaɪt||'prɑ:z-/ *n fml* a person who has just been persuaded to join a religious group, political party, etc.

pros·e·lyt·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'prɒsələtaɪz||'prɑ:z-/ *v* [I; T] *fml*, sometimes *derog* to (try to) persuade (someone) to join a religious group, political party, etc. —**izer** *n*

Pros·er·pine /'prɒsəpaɪn||'prɑ:sər-/ see PERSEPHONE

pros·o·dy /'prɒsədi||'prɑ:z-/ *n* [U] (the study of) the rules by which the patterns of sounds and beats are arranged in poetry —**dic** /prə'sɒdɪk||-'sɑ:z-/ *adj* [*A no comp.*]

pros·pect¹ /'prɒspekt||'prɑ:z-/ *n* 1 [C;U (of)] reasonable hope of something happening: *I'm afraid there's not much prospect of this being finished before the weekend.* | *a job with excellent prospects* (=chances of future success) 2 [S;U (of)] something which is probable soon: *She doesn't like the prospect of having to live alone.* | *not a very cheerful prospect* | *a lot of hard work in prospect* (=going to be necessary) 3 [C usu. sing.] a wide distant view: *From the top of the hill there's a beautiful prospect over the valley.* 4 [C] a person who may perhaps buy one's goods, accept a job one is offering, etc.: *I interviewed three likely prospects.* —see also PROSPECTIVE

pros·pect² /prə'spekt||'prɑ:spekt/ *v* [I; T (for)] to examine (land, an area, etc.) in order to find gold, silver, oil, etc. — *~or* *n* : *Thousands of prospectors flocked to the Klondike during the great Gold Rush.*

pro·spec·tive /prə'spektɪv/ *adj* expected or intended; likely to be or become: *a prospective buyer for the house*

pro·spec·tus /prə'spektəs/ *n* a printed statement describing the advantages of a college, a new business, etc. —compare LISTING PARTICULARS

pros·per /'prɒspər||'prɑ:z-/ *v* 1 [I] to become successful and esp. rich: *He/His business prospered.* 2 [I] to develop favourably or in a healthy way; grow well; THRIVE: *The children seem to be prospering under their care.* 3 [T] *old use* to cause to succeed: *May the gods prosper our city!*

pro-sper-i-ty /prɒ'spɜːtɪ||prɑː-/ *n* [U] good fortune and success, esp. in money matters: *We wish you health, happiness, and prosperity.*

pros-per-ous /'prɒspərəs||'prɑː-/ *adj* successful and rich — *ly adv*

Prost /prɒst||prəʊst/, **Al-ain** /'ælæn||æ'læn/ (1955–) a French racing driver who was world CHAMPION in 1985–86 and has had more GRAND PRIX (=an international car race) wins than any other driver ever

pros-tate /'prɒstet||'prɑː-/ also **prostate gland** /'..-/- *n* an organ in the body of male animals that produces a liquid in which SPERMATOOZOA (seeds) are carried

pros-the-sis /prɒs'thɪsɪs||prɑːs-/ *n tech* an artificial limb, tooth, or other body part to take the place of a missing one

pros-ti-tute¹ /'prɒstɪtjuːt||'prɑːstɪtuːt/ **male prostitute** *masc.* — *n* a person, esp. a woman, who earns money by having sex with anyone who will pay for it. The STEREOTYPE of a prostitute is of a woman wearing a short skirt, FISHNET STOCKINGS, HIGH HEELS, and a lot of MAKE-UP.

prostitute² *v* [T] *fml* 1 to put to a dishonourable use for money: *He never prostituted his great acting talent by appearing in television advertisements.* 2 to give the services of (oneself) as a prostitute

pros-ti-tu-tion /,prɒstɪ'tjuːʃən||,prɑːstɪ'tuːʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the act or trade of being a prostitute. In Britain, since 1959, the law allows the practice of prostitution but it does not allow a person to openly offer him or herself as a prostitute, or to provide a prostitute for someone else. In the US, prostitution is legal only in the state of Nevada, but it is practised everywhere. Prostitution is sometimes described as "the oldest profession in the world": *a police clampdown on prostitution* 2 [(of)] *fml* dishonourable misuse, esp. for money

pros-trate¹ /'prɒstreɪt||'prɑː-/ *adj* 1 lying on one's front, face downwards, esp. in obedience or worship — compare PRONE (2) 2 having lost all strength, courage, and ability to act: *She was prostrate with grief.* | *a prostrate* (=defeated and powerless) *nation* — **tration** /prɒ'streɪʃən||prɑː-/ *n* [C;U]: *Ceremonial prostration is part of Muslim prayer.*

pros-trate² /prɒ'streɪt||'prɑːstreɪt/ *v* [T] 1 to put in a prostrate position: *They prostrated themselves before the king.* 2 [*usu. pass.*] to cause to lose strength, courage, etc.; make PROSTRATE¹ (2): *a prostrating illness*

pros-y /'prəʊzi/ *adj* saying too much in a dull, tiring manner — *ily adv* — *iness n* [U]

pro-tag-o-nist /prəʊ'tæɡənɪst/ *n* 1 [(of)] the leader or a noticeable supporter of some (new) idea or purpose: *Friedman was one of the chief protagonists of monetarist economic policies.* 2 the chief character in a play or story 3 someone taking part esp. in a sports competition — compare ANTAGONIST

pro-te-an /'prəʊtɪən, prəʊ'tɪzən/ *adj lit* continually changing; able to appear in various forms or characters (from Proteus, a Greek sea god who could change his shape)

pro-TECT /prə'tekt/ *v* [T] 1 [(against, from)] to keep safe, esp. by guarding or covering: *The hard shell of a nut protects the seed inside it.* | *A line of forts was built along the border to protect the country against attack.* | *He raised his arm to protect his face from the blow.* | *These rare birds are protected by special laws — they are a protected species.* | *to protect one's reputation* 2 to help (industry) by taxing foreign goods — see also PROTECTIONISM 3 [(against)] to guard (property, etc.) against possible future loss, damage, etc., by means of insurance — see also PROTECTIVE

pro-TEC-tion /prə'tekʃən/ *n* 1 [U] the act of protecting or state of being protected: *Her thin coat gave/provided little protection against the cold.* | *After the threat on her life, she was offered police protection.* | *consumer protection* 2 [S] something that protects: *Shoes are a protection for the feet.* 3 [U] also **protection mon-ey** /'..-/- *infml euph* money paid to people who run a protection racket

pro-TEC-tion-is-m /prə'tekʃənɪzəm/ *n* [U] often *derog* the system of protecting one's own country's trade, esp. by TARIFFS — *ist n*

protection rack-et /'..-/- *n infml* a system by which criminals demand money from the owners of shops, restaurants, etc., for protection against damage that

would be caused by the criminals themselves if the owners refused to pay

pro-TEC-tive /prə'tektɪv/ *adj* 1 [A *no comp.*] that gives protection: *protective clothing* | *protective colouring on an insect's body* (=making it difficult for enemies to see) | *a protective tariff* (=tax on foreign goods) 2 [(towards)] wishing to protect: *She's too protective/overprotective towards her children; she should let them be more independent.* — *ly adv* — *ness n* [U]

protective cus-to-dy /'..-/- *n* [U] the state of being kept by the police for one's own safety

pro-TEC-tor /prə'tektər/ *n* 1 a person or thing that protects: *a chest protector* 2 (*usu. cap.*) (in former times) a prince or nobleman appointed to govern England during the childhood or illness of the king

Protector [the] the official title of Oliver Cromwell and Richard Cromwell during the period (the **Protectorate**) when they ruled Britain (1653–1659)

pro-TEC-tor-ate /prə'tektərət/ *n* 1 a country controlled and protected by a more powerful nation that takes charge esp. of its defence and foreign affairs 2 also **pro-TEC-tor-ship** /prə'tektərɪp||-'tektər-/ the time during which a PROTECTOR (2) governs

prot-é-gé /'prɒtʒeɪ||'prəʊ-/ **protégée** (*same pronunciation*) *fem.* — *n* a person who is guided and helped by someone of influence or power: *This young politician is the prime minister's protégé.*

pro-TEIN /'prəʊtɪn/ *n* [C;U] any of many substances present in such foods as meat, eggs, and beans that help to build up the body and keep it healthy: *a high-protein diet*

pro TEM /,prəʊ 'tem/ *adv* now but only for a short time; for the present only

pro-TEST¹ /'prəʊtest/ *n* [C;U] 1 (a) complaint or strong expression of disapproval, disagreement, opposition, etc.: *The local people have made a strong protest to/registered their protest with the minister about the new airport.* | *a protest march/vote* | *They refused to buy the company's goods in protest against/as a protest against the way it treated its workers.* | *He went to bed without protest.* (=calmly) 2 **under protest** unwillingly and feeling that something is not just: *I would like it on record that I signed under protest.*

pro-TEST² /prə'test/ *v* '1 [I (about, against, at)] to express one's disagreement, feeling of unfairness, annoyance, etc.: *The footballers all protested bitterly to the referee (about his decision).* | *There was a large crowd in the square, protesting against the war.* | *He protested vehemently as they took him away.* 2 [T] to declare in complaint or opposition: *She protested her innocence.* [+that] *She protested that she knew nothing about the stolen goods.* 3 [T] *AmE* to make a protest against: *a large crowd protesting the war* 4 **the lady doth protest too much, methinks** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, used when saying that someone seems to be denying (DENY) something too strongly, which suggests that it might be true — *er n*: *Police arrested several of the peace protesters.*

Pro-tes-tant /'prɒtɪstənt||'prɑː-/ *n, adj* (a member) of a part of the Christian church that separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century. There are many divisions within the church but in general Protestants believe in the authority of the Bible, rather than in the authority of TRADITION or of the Pope. They also believe in the importance of preaching (PREACH) and studying God's word in the Bible. Protestant services are rather plain compared to Catholic services. In Britain and the US most Christians are Protestant. — compare ROMAN CATHOLIC — *ism n* [U]

pro-tes-ta-tion /,prɒtɪ'steɪʃən, prəʊ-||,prɑː-, prəʊ-/ *n fml* 1 [C (of)] a solemn declaration: *protestations of friendship* 2 [U (against)] the expression of disagreement

protest march /'..-/- *n* a march *usu.* by a large number of people made to express disapproval, disagreement or opposition, *usu.* concerning a political subject. In London, protest marches often end with a large meeting in Hyde Park where people make speeches. In the US, protest marches *usu.* take place near a building or place which people think of in connection with what they are protesting about, e.g. an EMBASSY or government building. Protest marches held in Washington, D.C., often go to the Capitol or the White House. — see also VIETNAM WAR

protest song /'prɒtɪst sɒŋ/ *n* a song written and sung to express disapproval, disagreement or opposition, usu. concerning a social or political subject, e.g. the songs against war of the 1960s by Bob Dylan and others —see also VIETNAM WAR

proto- see WORD FORMATION

pro-to-col /'prəʊtəkəl||-kɔ:l/ *n* 1 [U] the ceremonial system of fixed rules and accepted behaviour used esp. by representatives of governments on official occasions: *Protocol demands that the queen meet him at the airport.* | *a breach of (=failure to follow) diplomatic protocol* 2 [C] *tech* an established method of connecting computers or electronic equipment so that they can exchange DATA: *We have to use a different protocol with this new modem.*

pro-ton /'prəʊtɒn||-tɔ:n/ *n* a very small piece of matter that carries POSITIVE electricity and that together with the NEUTRON forms the NUCLEUS (=central part) of an atom —see also ELECTRON

pro-to-plas-m /'prəʊtəplæzəm/ *n* [U] the colourless jelly-like living substance from which all plants and creatures are formed

pro-to-type /'prəʊtətaɪp/ *n* [(of)] the first form of something, esp. of a machine or industrial product, from which all later forms develop, sometimes with improvements: *the prototype of a new car*

pro-to-zo-a /,prəʊtə'zəʊə/ *n* [P] very small single-celled living things that can be seen only under a microscope

pro-to-zo-an, **-on** /,prəʊtə'zəʊən/ *n* a single member of the protozoa —**protozoan** *adj*

pro-tract /prə'trækt||prəʊ-/ *v* [T] to make the time during which (something) lasts long or longer, often without good reason: *a protracted argument* | *protracted pay negotiations* —compare PROLONG —**~ion** /'trækʃən/ *n* [U]

pro-trac-tor /prə'træktəʳ||prəʊ-/ *n* an instrument, usu. in the form of a half-circle, used for measuring and drawing angles —see picture at MATHEMATICS

pro-trude /prə'tru:d||prəʊ-/ *v* [I (from)] to stick out from a place or through a surface: *He glimpsed a gun protruding from the man's pocket.* | *protruding teeth* —compare OBTRUDE

pro-tru-sion /prə'tru:ʒən||prəʊ-/ *n* 1 [C] something that protrudes 2 [U] the act of protruding

pro-tu-ber-ance /prə'tju:bəreɪns||prəʊ'tu:z-/ *n* *fml* a swelling; BULGE: *protuberances on a flower stem*

pro-tu-ber-ant /prə'tju:bəreɪnt||prəʊ'tu:z-/ *adj* swelling or curving outwards: *a protuberant stomach* —**~ly** *adv*

proud /praʊd/ *adj* 1 *apprec* showing proper and reasonable respect for oneself: *They're poor but proud.* | *too proud to accept money from the state* 2 *derog* having too high an opinion of oneself and one's own importance; ARROGANT: *Lord Ponsonby is so proud he won't even speak to people like us.* | *You're really proud of yourself, aren't you?* 3 [(of)] having, expressing, or causing personal satisfaction and pleasure in something connected with oneself: *Tom is very proud of his new car.* | *The factory's safety record is something it can be proud of.* [F+to-v] *She was proud to be invited to speak.* [F+(that)] *We are very proud that a pupil from our school has won the prize.* | *It was a proud day for her parents when she qualified as a doctor.* —see also HOUSE-PROUD 4 *tech, esp. BrE* sticking out above a surface or surrounding area 5 *do someone proud* *infml* to treat someone, esp. a guest, splendidly —see also PRIDE —**~ly** *adv*

Proust /pru:st/, **Mar-cel** /'mɑ:sel||mɑ:r'sel/ (1871–1922) a French writer, considered to be one of the greatest writers of modern times. His great work, translated into English, is *Remembrance of Things Past* (1922–32), which consists of seven NOVELS and is a detailed study of society.

prove /pru:v/ *v* **proved** /pru:vd/, **proven** /'pru:vən/ *esp. AmE* 1 [T] to show to be true by means of facts, documents, information, etc.; give proof of: *evidence that proves his innocence* | *In order to prove her point, she showed them the latest sales figures.* [+ (that)] *The fingerprints on the gun prove conclusively that she was the murderer.* [+obj+adj] *They prove her (to be) guilty.* —see also DISPROVE 2 [L;T] to show (oneself or itself) afterwards or in the course of time or experience, etc., to be: [+adj/n] *These revelations could prove highly embarrassing for the government.* | *Perhaps the book will prove*

(to be) useful, after all. | *On the long journey, he proved a most amusing companion.* [+obj+n/adj] *He proved himself (to be) an amusing companion.* 3 [T] *law* to show that (a WILL² (5)) has been properly made —**provable** *adj* —**provably** *adv*

proven /'pru:vən; ScotE 'prəʊvən/ *adj* 1 [A] also **proved** —*apprec* tested and shown to be true: *a man of proven ability* —opposite **unproven** 2 **not proven** (in the Scottish legal system) when it has not been proved beyond doubt that someone has broken the law and they are therefore set free

prove-nance /'prəʊvənəns||'pra:z-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* (the stated place of) origin: *Gunpowder is now considered to be of Chinese provenance.*

Prov-en-çal /prəʊvən'sa:l||,pra:və:n-/ *n, adj* (a person or language) of Provence, SE France

Provençale, **Provençal** /,prəʊvən'sa:l||,pra:və:n-/ *adj* [after *n*] cooked with oil, GARLIC, HERBS and usu. TOMATOES

Pro-ven-ce /prə'vɒns, prə-||prə'va:ns/ an area in SE France on the Mediterranean Sea known for producing wine, fruit and vegetables, and for tourism. Its main towns are Nice and Marseilles.

prov-en-der /'prəʊvɪndəʳ||'pra:z-/ *n* [U] 1 *old-fash* dry food for horses and cattle 2 *infml, often humor* food for people

prov-erb /'prəʊvɜ:b||'pra:vɜ:rb/ *n* a short well-known, supposedly wise, saying usu. in simple language: *"Don't put all your eggs in one basket" is a proverb.*

pro-ver-bi-al /prə'vɜ:biəl||-zɜ:r-/ *adj* 1 of a proverb: *a proverbial expression* 2 [A] *infml* spoken of in a popular saying or comparison: *He's got more lives than the proverbial cat!* (cats are often said to have nine lives, meaning that they often narrowly escape death) 3 very widely known and spoken of; undoubted: *His generosity is proverbial.*

pro-ver-bi-al-ly /prə'vɜ:biəli||-zɜ:r-/ *adv* as is widely known or believed: *The Scots are proverbially careful with money.*

Prov-erbs /'prəʊvɜ:bz||'pra:vɜ:rbz/ in the Bible a collection of proverbs believed to be the work of Solomon, forming part of the Old Testament

pro-vide /prə'vaɪd/ *v* [T] 1 [(for)] to cause or arrange for (someone) to have or use (something needed or useful); supply: *The course is free but you have to provide your own books.* | *The hotel provides a shoe-cleaning service for its residents.* [+obj+with] *These letters should provide us with all the information we need.* | *Senior members of the government are provided with research assistants.* —see SPREAD (USAGE) 2 [+that; obj] *fml* (of a law, rule, agreement, etc.) to state a special arrangement that must be fulfilled: *The law provides that ancient buildings must be preserved by the government.*

provide against sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to make arrangements in order to avoid (a danger) 2 *fml* (of a law, rule, etc.) to forbid

provide for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to support; supply with the things necessary for life: *He has five children to provide for.* 2 to make the necessary future arrangements for: *to provide for every eventuality (=for whatever might happen)* [+obj+v-ing] *The plans provide for road traffic increasing to twice its present volume.* 3 (of a law, rule, etc.) to allow; make possible: *The possibility of the book being translated is provided for in your contract.*

pro-vid-ed /prə'vaɪdɪd/ also **provided that, providing, providing that—conj** 1 *if*: *Provided (that) there is no opposition, we shall hold the meeting here.* 2 and only if; on condition that: *I will go, (always) provided/providing (that) you go too.*

prov-i-dence /'prəʊvɪdəns||'pra:z-/ *n* 1 [S;U] (often *cap.*) (an act or event showing) God's care or the kindness of fate (often in the phrase **divine providence**): *It seemed like providence that the doctor happened to be passing just at the time of the accident.* 2 [U] *old use* the quality of being provident

Providence the capital city of the state of Rhode Island, NE US

prov-i-dent /'prəʊvɪdənt||'pra:z-/ *adj* *apprec* careful and sensible in providing for future needs, esp. by saving or storing —opposite **improvident** —**~ly** *adv*

prov-i-den-tial /,prəʊvɪ'denʃəl||,pra:z-/ *adj* *fml* happening just when needed; lucky —**~tially** *adv*

pro-vid-er /prə'vaɪdə/ *n* a person who provides, esp. one who supports a family

pro-vid-ing /prə'vaɪdɪŋ/ also **providing that** /'...-/- conj PROVIDED

prov-ince /'prɒvɪns||'prɑː-/ *n* 1 [C] any of the main divisions of some countries, and formerly of some EMPIRES (groups of countries) that forms a separate whole for purposes of government control 2 [S] an area of knowledge, activity, etc., esp. one that is regarded as belonging to a particular person: *Sales forecasts are outside my province — you should discuss them with the sales manager.* | *Everything to do with our finances is my wife's province.* 3 [C] an area under the charge of an ARCH-BISHOP (=a priest of the highest rank) — compare DIOCESE

prov-inc-es /'prɒvɪnsɪz||'prɑː-/ *n* [the+P] the parts of a country that are distant from the main city: *I saw the new film in London; it's not yet being shown in the provinces.*

pro-vin-cial /prə'vɪnʃəl/ *adj* 1 [no comp.] of a province or the provinces: *provincial government* | *a provincial newspaper* 2 often *derog* having the manners, speech, opinions, rather limited or old-fashioned customs, etc., that are sometimes regarded as typical of people from the PROVINCES: *her narrow-minded provincial attitudes* — ~ly *adv* — ~ism *n* [C;U] : *provincialism(s) of dress and manner*

provincial² *n* 1 a PROVINCIAL¹ (esp. 2) person 2 *tech* the head of a PROVINCE (3)

prov-ing ground /'...-/ *n* 1 a place for scientific testing, esp. of vehicles 2 a place or situation in which something new is tried out: *The school was a proving ground for his educational theories.*

pro-vi-sion¹ /prə'vɪʒən/ *n* 1 [U+of] the act of providing: *The provision of a new library has been of great benefit to the students.* 2 [U+against, for] preparation against future risks or for future needs: *They spend all their money and make no provision for the future.* 3 [C] a condition in an agreement or law; PROVISOR: *According to the provisions of the agreement the interest on the loan must be paid monthly.* [+that] *The doctor agreed to go to Africa, with the provision that he could take his family with him.* — see also PROVISIONS

provision² *v* [T (for)] to provide with food and supplies in large quantities for a long time: *to provision a ship/an army*

pro-vi-sion-al /prə'vɪʒənəl/ *adj* for the present time only; suitable now, but likely to be changed: *a provisional government until we can hold an election* | *a provisional arrangement* — compare TEMPORARY — ~ly *adv* : *Provisionally, we've arranged the meeting for Tuesday, but we can change it if that doesn't suit you.*

Provisional IRA /'...-/- also **Provisionals, Provos** — [the] a group within the IRA that uses violence and TERRORISM to achieve its aim of a united Ireland. It is separate from the official IRA.

provisional li-cence /'...-/- BrE || *learner's permit* AmE — *n* an official paper which is given to a person who is learning to drive. It is temporary and lasts for one year.

pro-vi-sions /prə'vɪʒənz/ *n* [P] food supplies, esp. for a particular purpose such as a journey — **provision** *adj* [A] : *a provision merchant*

pro-vi-so /prə'vaɪzəʊ/ *n* -sos a necessary condition in an agreement that is made in advance: [+that] *I agree to do the work, with one proviso — that I'm paid in advance.*

prov-o-ca-tion /,prɒvə'keɪʃən||,prɑː-/ *n* 1 [U] the act of provoking or reason for being provoked: *It's true that he hit her, but he was acting under severe provocation — she was hurting his child.* | *They attacked our border guards without the slightest provocation.* 2 [C] something that tests one's powers of self-control: *the provocations of teaching a class of badly-behaved children*

pro-voc-a-tive /prə'vɒkətɪv||-'vɑː-/ *adj* likely to cause strong feelings, e.g. of anger or sexual interest: *his provocative remarks about unemployed people being lazy* | *Amanda is looking very provocative in those tight jeans.* — ~ly *adv*

pro-voke /prə'vəʊk/ *v* [T] 1 [(into, to)] to make (a person or animal) angry or bad-tempered, esp. by continually annoying them: *That dog is very dangerous when provoked.* | *The students tried to provoke the teacher into losing her temper.* (=make her lose her temper by provoking her) [+obj+to-v] *His refusal to answer provoked me*

to shout at him. — see ANNOY (USAGE) 2 to be the sudden cause of (a usu. unpleasant feeling or action): *Her insensitive speech provoked an angry reaction.* | *Don't throw one bone to two dogs; you'll only provoke a fight.* 3 enough to provoke a saint so annoying that it would make even the calmest and most patient person angry

Pro-vos /'prəʊvəʊz/ [the+P] *infml* the PROVISIONAL IRA

prov-ost /'prɒvəst||'prəʊvəʊst/ *n* (usu. cap.) 1 a the head of certain colleges: *the Provost of King's College* b AmE a university official of high rank 2 the head of a Scottish town council — compare MAYOR 3 the head of the CHAPTER in a CATHEDRAL in Britain, usu. also the PARISH priest where the cathedral is the parish church

pro-vost court /prə'vəʊ kɔːt||'prəʊvəʊ ,kɔːrt/ *n* a military court usu. for small offences in a country held by an army

provost mar-shal /prə'vəʊ 'mɑːʃəl||,prəʊvəʊ 'mɑːr-/ *n* an officer who is in charge of military police

pro-w /prəʊ/ *n* esp. *lit* the pointed front part of a ship or boat; BOW⁵

pro-ess /'prəʊɪs/ *n* usu. *fml* or *lit* [U (as, at, in)] great ability, skill, or bravery. This word is usu. used in a military or sexual context: *The tribesmen sang a song of victory, describing their prowess in battle.* | *boasting about his sexual prowess*

prowl¹ /praʊl/ *v* [I;T] (esp. of an animal looking for food, or of a thief looking for a chance to steal) to move about (an area) quietly, trying not to be seen or heard: *I heard someone prowling about in the garden.* | *rough-looking men who prowl the streets after dark* — ~er *n* : *to report a prowler to the police*

prowl² *n* [S] an act of prowling: *a hungry lion on the prowl* (=prowling) | (fig., *infml*) *I'm going for a prowl round the bookshops.* (=looking for books to buy)

prowl car /'...-/ *n* AmE a police car that is driven round the streets of a city looking for crime — see also PATROL CAR

prox /prɒks||prɑːks/ BrE *fml*, becoming rare (used after a date in business letters) of next month: *The meeting will be held on the 24th prox.*

prox-i-mate /'prɒksɪmət||'prɑːk-/ *adj* [no comp.] *fml* 1 [(to)] nearest in time, order, or family relationship 2 [A] (of a cause) direct — ~ly *adv*

prox-im-i-ty /prɒksɪ'mɪtɪ||prɑːk-/ *n* [U (to, of)] *fml* nearness: *Proximity to a good shopping centre is important.* | *a monument to be erected in the proximity of* (=somewhere near) *the town hall*

prox-y /'prɒksi||'prɑːksi/ *n* 1 [U] the right given to a person to act for or represent another person on a single occasion, esp. as a voter at an election, because the person is not able to go because of illness or absence from the country. Official permission must be given before this right can be used: *to vote by proxy* (=by sending someone else) 2 [C] a person whom one chooses to act for or represent one

proxy vote /'...-/ *n* a vote made by a person acting as a proxy (2) for another. The person represented either tells the proxy which way to vote, or allows him/her to vote as they think best.

prude /pruːd/ *n* *derog* a person who is, or claims to be, easily shocked by improper or rude things, esp. of a sexual nature. This word is usu. used for a woman, esp. a very CONSERVATIVE older woman. — **prudish** *adj* — **prudishly** *adv* : *"I never laugh at dirty jokes," she said prudishly.* — see also PRUDERY

pru-dent /'pruːdənt/ *adj* thinking carefully before taking action; careful to avoid risks, unpleasantness, difficulties, etc.: *I think it would be prudent to hear the other side of the argument before you make your decision.* — opposite **imprudent** — ~ly *adv* — **dence** *n* [U] : *financial prudence*

pru-den-tial /pruː'denʃəl/ *adj* *fml* resulting from prudence, esp. in business matters — ~ly *adv*

Prudential also **Pru** /pruː/ *infml* — [the] *tdmk* a British and American insurance company

prud-er-y /'pruːdəri/ also **prud-ish-ness** /'pruːdɪʃnɪs/- *n* [U] *derog* the behaviour of a prude

prune¹ /pruːn/ *v* [T] 1 [(BACK)] to cut off or shorten some of the branches of (a tree or bush) in order to improve the shape and growth: *to prune roses with a pruning knife* — see picture at GARDEN 2 [(AWAY, BACK)] to remove

(branches, stems, etc.) in this way **3** [(AWAY, DOWN)] to reduce or remove (anything useless or unwanted) from (something) by making careful choices: *You should prune the speech down; it's too long.* | *pruning waste in the health service to reduce government spending*

prune² *n* **1** a dried PLUM, sometimes gently boiled before eating **2** *BrE infml* a silly person

pruning hook /'prʊnɪŋ hʊk/ *n* a hook-shaped knife on a usu. long pole, used for cutting branches of trees etc.

pru-ri-ent /'prʊəriənt/ *adj fml* having an unpleasantly strong and unhealthy interest in sex — *~ly adv* — *~ence n* [U]

Prus-sia /'prʌʃə/ a former German state, divided between W Germany, E Germany, the USSR, and Poland in 1947. British people think of the typical Prussian as being very proud and military in their way of behaving. — **Prussian** *n, adj*

Prus-sian blue /,prʌʃən 'blu:/ *n* [U] a deep blue colour or paint — **Prussian blue** *adj*

prus-sic ac-id /,prʌsɪk 'æsɪd/ *n* [U] a very poisonous acid that quickly causes death

pry¹ /praɪ/ *v* [I (into)] *derog* to try to find out about someone else's private affairs: *I don't wish to pry, but is it true that you've sold your house?* | *prying newspaper reporters* | *He put a cover over it to discourage prying eyes.*

pry² *v* [T] *esp. AmE* for PRIZE³: *We used an iron bar to pry open the box.*

Pry-or /'praɪər/, **Richard** (1940–) an American COMEDIAN who has appeared in films and made several records. He is black and often makes jokes about situations involving black and white people together.

P.S. /,pi: 'es/ *n* **1** a postscript; a note added at the end of a letter: *She added a P.S. asking me to send some money.* | *Yours, J. Smith. P.S. If Thursday is not convenient for you, please let me know.* **2** PRIVATE SECRETARY

psalm /sɑ:m|sɑ:m, sɑ:lm/ *n* (sometimes *cap.*) a song or poem in praise of God, esp. one of those in the Bible (from the **Book of Psalms**, in the OLD TESTAMENT, a collection of songs (HYMNS) often sung at church services on Sundays)

psalm-ist /'sɑ:mɪst| 'sɑ:m-, 'sɑ:lm-/ *n* a writer of psalms

psal-ter /'sɔ:ltər/ *n* (often *cap.*) a book of the psalms in the Bible, often with music, for use in church services

psal-ter-y /'sɔ:ltəri/ *n* an ancient musical instrument with strings stretched over a board, played with the fingers

PSAT /,pɪz es eɪ 'tɪz/ *n* Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test; an examination which students in the US take to prepare for the SAT. Students who do well on the PSAT may win a National Merit Scholarship. — see also SAT

PSBR /,pɪz es bɪz 'ɑ:z/ *abbrev. for* PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT

pse-phol-o-gy /se'fɒlədʒi|sɪ:'fɑ:z/ *n* [U] the study of how people vote at elections — *~gist n*

pseud /sju:ð||su:ð/ *n* *BrE infml derog* someone who pretends to have especially great knowledge or especially good judgment, esp. in matters such as art or literature. British people tend to dislike this kind of person and would use this word to show their disapproval and CONTEMPT. — *pseudly adj*

pseudo- see WORD FORMATION

pseu-do-nym /'sju:ðənɪm|| 'su:ðənɪm/ *n* an invented name used instead of one's real name, esp. by a writer: *Charlotte Brontë wrote under the pseudonym of Currer Bell.*

pseu-don-y-mous /sju: 'dɒnɪməs|| su: 'dɑ:z/ *adj* written or writing under a pseudonym: *the pseudonymous writer of this newspaper column*

pshaw /pʃɔ:z||fɔ:z/ *interj* a sound used to express annoyance, disapproval, disbelief, or when you think someone or something is worthless or wrong

psit-ta-co-sis /,sɪtə'kəʊsɪs/ *n* [U] a serious disease of certain birds, that can also be caught by people

psori-a-sis /sə'reɪəsɪs/ *n med* an illness of the skin which makes the skin dry, red, and FLAKY (1)

psst /ps/ *interj* (a sound used for getting a person's attention while asking for secrecy): *Psst! Put your shoes on before he comes in!*

PST /,pɪz es 'tɪz/ *abbrev. for* PACIFIC STANDARD TIME

PSTN /,pɪz es tɪz 'en/ *n* [U] Public Switched Telephone Net-

work; the system of telephone lines around the world used for voice calls, or for DATA calls when proper equipment is used — see also ISDN

psych /saɪk/ *v*

psych sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T] *sl, esp. AmE* **1** to frighten, using only the power of one's mind: *The boxer stared hard at his opponent before the match, trying to psych him out.* **2** to understand by INTUITION: *I psych-ed him out at once, and knew I couldn't trust him.*

psych sbdy. **up phr v** [T] *sl, esp. AmE* to make (esp. oneself) keen and ready: *She'd got herself all psych-ed up for the exam, so it was a big letdown when it was postponed.*

psy-che /'saɪki/ *n* [usu. *sing.*] *tech or fml* the human mind, soul, or spirit

psyched /saɪkt/ also **psyched up** /,sɪ 'pɪ-/ *adj sl* excited: *He was pretty psyched about his bike trip in Europe.*

psy-che-del-ic /,saɪkə'delɪk-/ *adj* **1** (of a mind-influencing drug) causing strange and powerful sensations of happiness, understanding, hopelessness, etc. These drugs became popular in the 1960s and 70s, and now have a strong association with this period. — see also HIPPIE **2** (of a form of art) producing an effect on the brain by means of strong patterns of noise, colour, lines, moving lights, etc., like the effects produced by psychedelic drugs — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

psychiatric hos-pi-tal /,sɪkə'trɪkəl/ *n* a hospital where people with illnesses of the mind are treated

psy-chi-a-trist /saɪ 'kaɪətrɪst||sə-/ *n* a doctor trained in psychiatry: *a session on the psychiatrist's couch* — compare PSYCHOLOGIST (1)

psy-chi-a-try /saɪ 'kaɪətri||sə-/ *n* [U] the study and treatment of diseases of the mind, esp. when considered as a branch of medicine, that deals with mental, emotional, or behavioural problems — **~tric** /,saɪkə'trɪk-/ *adj*: *psychiatric treatment/disorders* — *~trically* /kli/ *adv*

psy-chic¹ /'saɪkɪk/ also **psy-chi-cal** /-kɪkəl/ — *adj* **1** (of a person) having powers that cannot be scientifically explained, e.g. the ability to see into the future: *How did you know I was here? You must be psychic!* — compare CLAIRVOYANT **2** [no *comp.*] concerning the soul or the spirits of the dead: *psychic experiences* **3** [no *comp.*] (of an illness) of the mind as opposed to the body: *psychic disorders* — *~ally* /kli/ *adv*

psychic² *n* a PSYCHIC¹ (1) person, esp. one who is believed to receive messages from the dead (a MEDIUM²). Many people do not believe in psychics and consider them to be strange, although they are often interested in what psychics say and do.

psychic re-search /,sɪkə 'ri:ʃəz/ *n* [U] the study of the PARANORMAL, esp. the powers of the mind and also the existence of such things as GHOSTS, POLTERGEISTS, etc. This is a subject which causes a lot of argument and disagreement. People are often very interested in the more sensational forms of the paranormal, such as TELEKINESIS (=moving objects by the power of the mind alone), and these often appear in films or are mentioned in newspapers. — see also ESP, Uri GELLER

psy-cho /'saɪkəʊ/ *n infml* a PSYCHOPATH.

Psycho an American HORROR film made in 1960 directed by Alfred HITCHCOCK. It is esp. known for a scene in which the character Marion (Janet Leigh) is stabbed (STAB) in a SHOWER by Norman BATES (Anthony Perkins). — see picture on page 685

psycho- see WORD FORMATION

psy-cho-an-a-lyse also **-lyze** *AmE* /,saɪkəʊ'ænəlaɪz/ *v* [T] to treat by psychoanalysis

psy-cho-a-nal-y-sis /,saɪkəʊ-ə'nælɪsɪs/ *n* [U] a way of treating certain nervous disorders of the mind by examination of the sufferer's memories of past life, experiences, dreams, etc., in an effort to find hidden causes of the illness. It was developed by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalysis is fairly common in the US, but British people often have a negative view of it and are not certain that it is effective. — **~tic** /,saɪkəʊ-ænə'lɪtɪk-/ *adj* — *~tically* /kli/ *adv*

psy-cho-an-a-lyst /,saɪkəʊ'ænəl-ɪst/ also **analyst** *AmE* — *n* a person who is trained in psychoanalysis. The STEREOTYPE of a psychoanalyst is of a very serious, unemotional man who sounds German, who sits next to the person

being treated (who lies on a **COUCH**), and writes things in a **NOTEBOOK** but says very little.

psy-cho-bi-ol-o-gy /ˌsaɪkəʊbaɪˈɒlədʒi/ -'aɪ-/ *n* the study of the body in relation to the mind: *His speciality is the psychobiology of manic-depressives.*

psy-cho-dra-ma /ˌsaɪkəʊˈdræmə/ -ˌdræmə, -ˌdræmə/ *n* the playing of **ROLES** in events from a person's life as a method in **PSYCHOTHERAPY** or education

psy-cho-ki-ne-sis /ˌsaɪkəʊkaɪˈnɪzɪs/ -kɪˈnɪz-/ *n* [U] the moving of solid objects by the power of the mind alone. There is very little scientific proof for psychokinesis and most people do not believe in it. However, it causes great interest, and people like to watch shows which supposedly prove that it exists. —see also Uri **GELLER** —**tic** /-ˈnetɪk/ *adj* —**tically** /kli/ *adv*

psy-cho-log-i-cal /ˌsaɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkəl/ -ˈlɑː-/ *adj* 1 of or connected with the way that the mind works: *a psychological play about a mother's power over her son's mind* | *There could be some psychological explanation for his bad health.* 2 at the psychological moment *infml* just at the right time: *If you ask him at the psychological moment, he may say yes.* —**cally** /kli/ *adv* : *psychologically unstable* | *disturbed*

psychological war-fare /ˌpsɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkəlˈwɔː/ *n* [U] action taken to lessen enemy courage and loyalty by spreading fear, anxiety, different political beliefs, etc.

psy-chol-o-gist /saɪˈkɒlədʒɪst/ -ˈkɑː-/ *n* 1 a person who is trained in psychology: *police psychologists* —compare **PSYCHIATRIST** 2 *infml* a person who understands people's characters: *He fancies himself as a bit of a psychologist.* | *a good psychologist*

psy-chol-o-gy /saɪˈkɒlədʒi/ -ˈkɑː-/ *n* 1 [U] the study or science of the mind and the way it works and influences behaviour: *educational psychology* 2 [C;U] *infml* a particular person's character and the way this influences their behaviour 3 [U] *infml* cleverness in understanding people: *You'll have to use a bit of psychology if you want to persuade them.*

psy-cho-path /ˌsaɪkəˈpæθ/ *n* a person who has a serious disorder of character that may cause violent or criminal behaviour —compare **SOCIOPATH** — **ic** /ˌsaɪkəˈpæθɪk/ *adj* — **ically** /kli/ *adv*

psy-cho-sis /saɪˈkəʊsɪs/ *n* -**ses** /sɪz/ [C;U] a serious disorder of the mind that may produce character changes and makes one lose touch with reality —see also **PSYCHOTIC**

psy-cho-so-mat-ic /ˌsaɪkəʊsəˈmætɪk/ -ˌkəsə-/ *adj* 1 (of an illness) caused by fear or anxiety in the mind rather than by a physical disorder 2 concerning the relationship between the mind and the body in illness: *psychosomatic medicine* — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

psy-cho-ther-a-py /ˌsaɪkəʊˈθerəpi/ *n* [U] *tech* the treatment of **DEPRESSION**, anger, and other strong feelings, as well as disorders of the mind using psychology rather than drugs, operations, etc. —**pist** *n*

psy-cho-tic /saɪˈkɒtɪk/ -ˈkɑː-/ *adj, n tech* (of or being) a person suffering from psychosis: *psychotic behaviour* | *He became (a) psychotic.* — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

pt *written abbrev. for:* 1 part 2 payment 3 **PINT**(s) 4 point 5 (often *cap.*) port: *Pt Moresby*

PT /ˌpiːˈtiː/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* physical training; development of the body by games, exercises, etc.: *I enjoy PT.* | *a PT lesson* —compare **GYM**

PTA /ˌpiːˈtiː/ *n* Parent-Teacher Association; an organization of teachers and parents that works for the improvement of a school —compare **PTO**²

PT boat /ˌpiːˈtiːˈbɔʊt/ *n* a small, fast boat used by the US armed forces, esp. during the Second World War. Many Americans remember that President John F Kennedy fought during the Second World War in a PT boat, PT 109, and that when it was sunk, Kennedy led the men to safety.

Pte *BrE written abbrev. for* **PRIVATE**² (1)

pter-o-dac-tyl /ˌterəˈdæktɪl/ -tɪl, -tɪl/ *n* a flying animal that lived many millions of years ago

PTO¹ /ˌpiːˈtiː/ *n* *abbrev. for* (written at the bottom of a page) please turn over; look at the next page

PTO² *n esp. AmE* Parent-Teacher Organization; a PTA

Ptole-ma-ic sys-tem /ˌtɒləˈmeɪ-ɪk ˌsɪstəm/ ˌtɒl-/ [*the*] the system according to which, in former times, the Earth

was believed to be at the centre of the universe, with the sun, stars, and **PLANETS** travelling round it (from **Ptolemy** (2nd century AD), a Greek-Egyptian scientist —compare **COPERNICAN SYSTEM**)

Ptole-my¹ /ˌtɒləmi/ ˌtɒl-/ a Greek-Egyptian scientist who studied the stars, and thought that the stars, the sun, and the **PLANETS** went round the earth. This idea is known as the Ptolemaic System.

Ptolemy² the name of five kings of Egypt from the 3rd to the 1st century BC

pto-maine /ˌtəʊmeɪn, təʊˈmeɪn/ *adj* [A] concerning or caused by poisonous substances formed by bacteria in decaying meat: *ptomaine poisoning*

pty *written abbrev. for:* **PROPRIETARY** (used in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa after the name of a business company): *Australian Wine Growers Pty*

Pubs

the inside of a pub



the outside of a pub



Pubs are an important part of British life. Even very small villages nearly always have a pub. People, especially men, will often go to the pub for a drink in the evenings and at weekends. A man will usually go to the same pub, one which is close by and which is called the **LOCAL** (2 2): *I'm just nipping down to the local for a pint.* Women now go to pubs more than they used to, but usually do not like to go to a pub on their own. Children under 16 are not usually allowed into pubs, although some pubs have a children's room or a garden where children can sit.

Until 1988, pubs were only allowed to be open from 12:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. The laws which say when alcoholic drink can be sold in a public place are called the **LICENSING LAWS**. Even though the law was changed so that alcohol can now be sold all day, many pubs still only open at lunchtime and in the evening. When it is nearly time for the pub to close, the **LANDLORD** (=man who runs the pub) or **LANDLADY** (=woman who runs the pub) shouts '**last orders**' (=buy your last drinks) and then '**time**' (=no more drinks will be served and people should now finish their drinks and leave the pub).

Pubs often sell food or **SNACKS** as well as drinks. Food that is considered typical pub food is **SCAMPI** (=kind of shellfish) and **CHIPS** (=fried potatoes), **PIE** and chips, chicken and chips, and **PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH** (=bread with cheese).

Pubs have names, e.g. *The Angel, The Black Swan, The Crown, The King's Arms, The Red Lion, The White Horse*, etc. and people usually refer to the pub by its name: *Turn left at the Rose and Crown.* There is often a sign outside the pub showing the name with a picture.

Many pubs have two or more different bars. The **PUBLIC BAR** is usually plainly furnished and often has a **POOL** table and **DARTBOARD**. It is the bar usually used by the **LOCALS** (=people, especially men, from nearby who use the pub regularly). The **SALOON BAR** is comfortable and well-furnished and is the bar that is usually used by men and women drinking together.

a pub sign



pub /pʌb/ also **public house** *BrE fml*— *n* (esp. in Britain) a building, not a club or hotel, where alcohol may be bought and drunk during fixed hours: *They've gone down to the pub.* | *the landlord of the pub* | *a pub lunch* —see also **LOCAL**² (2); compare **BAR**¹ (3a)

pub-crawl /'pʌ- / *n* esp. *BrE sl* a visit to several pubs one after another, usu. having a drink at each place. People who go on a **pub-crawl** are usu. young men and often get drunk: *Taxi-drivers dislike picking up people who have been on a pub-crawl.* —**pub-crawl** *v* [I]

pu-ber-ty /'pjʊ:bəti||-ər-/ *n* [U] the stage of change in the human body from childhood to the adult state in which it is possible to produce children. In Western countries people do not celebrate puberty and it is not usu. discussed openly. Parents usu. inform their children about the changes at puberty and it is also taught at school.

pu-bic /'pjʊ:bɪk/ *adj* [A] of or near the sexual organs: *pubic hair*

pub-lic¹ /'pʌblɪk/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] of, for, or concerning people in general: *The rise in drug-taking is a matter of public concern.* | *The regulations were changed as a result of public pressure.* | *The government's attitude to this is a public disgrace/scandal.* **2** [no comp.] for the use of everyone; not private: *a public fountain* | *Is this garden public?* **3** [no comp.] connected with the government and the services it provides for the people: *a new policy on public spending* | *to hold public office* (=be a government minister, etc.) **4** (able to be) known to all or to many; not secret: *The news was not made public for several days.* | *Don't talk about it here; this place is too public.* | *a public inquiry into the causes of the accident* **5** go public to become a **PUBLIC COMPANY** **6** in the public eye (of a person) often seen in public or on television, or mentioned in newspapers —compare **PRIVATE**¹ —*ly* *adv*: *publicly humiliated*

public² *n* **1** [the +sing./pl. *v*] people in general: *The town gardens are open to the public/to members of the public daily.* | *The British public is/are not really interested in this issue.* —see also **JOE BLOGGS** **2** [S; U+sing./pl. *v*] any group considered in terms of its relation to a particular person, activity, etc.: *The singer tried to please his public by singing old songs.* | *Is there a public for that sort of book?* (=will people be interested in it?) **3** in public in the presence of strangers or of many people —opposite in private

public ac-cess /'pʌ- / *n* [U] the right of people in general to go on to certain land: *The Ramblers Association is protesting about the lack of public access to parts of the North Yorkshire moors.*

public ac-cess chan-nel /'pʌ- / *n* **COMMUNITY CHANNEL**

public-ad-dress sys-tem /'pʌ- / *n* see **PA** (2)

public af-fairs /'pʌ- / *n* [P] events and questions, esp. political ones, which concern most people: *There's a programme on TV every week which discusses public affairs in a non-partisan manner.*

pub-li-can /'pʌblɪkən/ *n* **1** *fml*, esp. *BrE* a person who runs a **PUB** —compare **INNKEEPER** **2** a tax collector in ancient Rome

pub-li-ca-tion /'pʌblɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of making something known to the public: *the publication of the election results* **2** [U] the offering for sale to the public of something printed: *The book is ready for publication.* **3** [C] something published (**PUBLISH**), such as a book or magazine: *The library gets the usual monthly publications.*

public bar /'pʌ- / *n* *BrE* a plainly furnished room in a **PUB**, hotel, etc., where lower prices are charged for drinks than in the **SALOON BAR**. The public bar is usually the most popular room in a pub and also the place where games are played. —see also **PUB**

public bill /'pʌ- / *n* *BrE* a **BILL**¹ (2) that has an effect on the general public rather than a particular person or class —compare **PRIVATE BILL**

public com-pa-ny /'pʌ- / *n* a business company that offers its shares for sale on the **STOCK EXCHANGE**

public con-ve-ni-ence /'pʌ- / also **convenience**— *n* *BrE euph* a public **TOILET** provided by local government —see **TOILET (USAGE)**

public cor-po-ra-tion /'pʌ- / *n* **1** an organization set up by the British government to run a state-owned business

e.g. **British Rail** **2** *AmE* a company whose shares are bought and sold on a **STOCK EXCHANGE** and which is therefore owned by a large number of people

public de-fend-er /'pʌ- / *n* *AmE* a lawyer provided by the state, **COUNTY**, or city government to defend poor people in law cases —compare **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

public do-main /'pʌ- / *law in the public domain* (of a work of art, literature, an invention, or a piece of information) no longer the property of the artist, writer, or inventor. When a work is in the public domain, anyone can use it without asking permission: *Many famous pieces of classical music are in the public domain and are used in advertisements.*

public en-e-my /'pʌ- / *n* **1** a person, esp. a wanted criminal, who is a danger to the public and who is usually being hunted by the police. Pictures of the person are often put up in public places. **2** **public enemy number one** a phrase used in speaking of a criminal, an illness, etc. that is regarded as the most serious threat to people's safety or health: *For a few weeks, pitbull terriers became public enemy number one in the popular press.*

public ex-pen-di-ture /'pʌ- / *n* [U] spending by the government on e.g. schools, roads, hospitals, the army, **SOCIAL SECURITY**, and wages

public foot-path /'pʌ- / *n* *BrE* a footpath which is open to the public and which people have a right to use, as opposed to a **PRIVATE** footpath

public fund-ing /'pʌ- / also **public funds** /'pʌ- / *n* [U] money given by the government for activities or organizations for the public use: *Public funding for the arts is lower in Britain than in Germany.*

public health /'pʌ- / *n* [U] **HEALTH CARE** for the public, provided by the government or local authority and including **PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**, **SANITATION**, and **HYGIENE** in public places

public hol-i-day /'pʌ- / *n* a general holiday when most people are off work and shops are usu. closed

public house /'pʌ- / *n* *BrE fml* for **PUB**

public hous-ing /'pʌ- / *n* [U] *AmE* flats or houses built by the US government for very poor people. It is usu. in cities, of poor quality, and strongly disliked by everyone, esp. those who live in it. —compare **COUNCIL HOUSE**

public in-quiry /'pʌ- / *n* an official **INVESTIGATION** into the reasons for something happening, esp. an accident: *They are going to conduct a public inquiry into the causes of the disaster.* | *the subject of a public inquiry*

pub-li-cist /'pʌblɪsɪst/ *n* a person whose business is to bring something, esp. products for sale, to the attention of the public: (fig.) *He's a good self-publicist.* (=he is good at making himself well-known)

pub-lic-i-ty /'pʌblɪsɪti/ *n* [U] **1** public notice or attention: *The film star's marriage got a lot of publicity.* | *unwelcome publicity* **2** the business of bringing someone or something to the attention of the public: *Who is in charge of publicity for our show?* | *a big publicity campaign to highlight the dangers of smoking*

pub-li-cize also **-cise** *BrE* /'pʌblɪsaɪz/ *v* [T] to bring to public notice: *to publicize a new policy*

public law /'pʌ- / *n* **law** **1** [C] a law which concerns the general public **2** [U] the part of law concerned with the relations of the state with people and the activities, rights, and duties of the government and its departments —compare **PRIVATE LAW**

public lend-ing right /'pʌ- / *n* (in Britain) an arrangement which provides payment for writers depending on how often their books are borrowed from certain public libraries

public li-bra-ry /'pʌ- / *n* a building paid for out of taxes where people can go and borrow books free of charge

public lim-it-ed com-pa-ny /'pʌ- / also **plc abbrev.**— *n* a company in Britain which has at least two members and **SHARES**¹(2) available to the public. Public limited companies must print their accounts and include **plc** in their name.

public nui-sance /'pʌ- / *n* **1** *law* an act or failure to act which is harmful to everyone: *He committed a public nuisance by blocking the road.* **2** *infml* a person who makes trouble

public o-pin-ion /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [U] the opinions, views, or beliefs held by the general public on subjects of national interest or importance: *public opinion says that politicians can never make the mistake of having an affair.*

public own-er-ship /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [U] the owning of businesses, property, etc., by the state. In Britain several companies in public ownership have been privatized (PRIVATIZE), esp. during Mrs Thatcher's government.

public pros-e-cu-tor /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* (often caps.) (in Britain) a government lawyer who acts for the state in bringing charges against criminals in a court of law —compare DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Public Rec-ord Of-fice /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ [the] an office in London that holds all the government records, some of historical value. Most of the records can be examined by the general public after 30 years.

public re-la-tions /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ also **PR**— *n* 1 [U] the work of forming in the minds of the general public a favourable opinion of an organization: *She's a public relations officer in a big oil company.* 2 [P] good relations between an organization and the public: *Giving money to the local theatre would be good for (our company's) public relations.*

public relations ex-er-cise /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* an action that is done only to gain favour with the public and not because of any real feeling or interest: *The parades come down to one thing: a public relations exercise for the Bush Administration.*

public school /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* 1 a private FEE-PAYING British and esp. English SECONDARY school where children usu. live as well as study. Public schools are known for their high ACADEMIC standards and are considered PRESTIGIOUS. They are expensive and attended usu. by people of high social STATUS or with a lot of money. The most famous British public schools include Eton, Harrow, and Winchester. 2 (esp. in the US and Scotland) a free local school, controlled and paid for by the state, for children who study there but live at home —compare PRIVATE SCHOOL

public sec-tor /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ [the] those industries and services in a country that are owned and run by the state, such as (in many countries) the education service and the railways: *a job in the public sector* | *public-sector employees* —compare PRIVATE SECTOR

public sector bor-row-ing re-quire-ment /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ also **PSBR abbrev.**— [the] the difference between the money the government collects and the money it spends, when this is greater

public serv-ant /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* a person who works for the government, esp. one who is elected

public serv-ice /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [C;the] 1 the supply of a COMMODITY, such as gas or electricity, or service, such as TRANSPORT, to the general public 2 a service performed in the public interest 3 [employment in the government or its departments; CIVIL SERVICE

public speak-ing /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [U] the practice of making speeches in public

public spend-ing /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [U] the money spent by local and central government and public organizations on things such as roads, schools, HOUSING, etc.

public spir-it /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [U] *apprec* willingness to do what is helpful for everyone, without regard for personal advantage —**public-spirited** /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *adj*: *Thank you for volunteering; that's very public-spirited of you!*

public tel-e-vi-sion /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [U] a television service in the US which is supported by money given by the government, large companies, and people who watch public television stations. Public television is thought of by many people as making good quality programmes that are both educational and entertaining. —see also PBS

public trans-port /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ , **public trans-por-ta-tion** /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *AmE*— *n* [U] means of TRANSPORT open to the general public; bus, train, UNDERGROUND³, etc.

public works /ˌpʌblɪˈɒn/ *n* [P] buildings, roads, ports, etc., provided by the government for public use

pub-ish /ˌpʌblɪʃ/ *v* 1 [I;T] a (of a business firm) to choose, arrange, have printed, and offer for sale to the public (a book, magazine, newspaper, etc.): *This firm publishes educational books/software.* | *to get a job in publishing* b (of a newspaper or magazine) to print for the public to

read: *We can't publish all the letters we receive.* 2 [I;T] (of a writer or musician) to have (one's work) printed and put on sale: *She's just published her fourth novel.* 3 [T often pass.] to make known generally; bring to the knowledge of the public: *The latest unemployment figures will be published tomorrow.* 4 **publish and be damned** *quote* a phrase which is believed to have been used by the Duke of Wellington, now used when saying that people should publish a book even if it will cause disagreement or protest 5 **publish or perish** *AmE* a saying used about university teachers, meaning that if they do not publish something new each year they may lose their jobs. The publish or perish system is often criticized and blamed for causing teachers to spend less time with their students.

pub-lish-er /ˌpʌblɪʃə/ *n* a person or firm (also **publishing house**) whose business is to PUBLISH (1) books, newspapers, etc., or (sometimes) to make and sell records

Puc-ci-ni /puˈtʃiːni/, **Gia-co-mo** /ˈdʒækəməʊ||ˈdʒɑː-/ (1858–1924) an Italian COMPOSER famous for his OPERAS, esp. *La Bohème* and *Tosca*

puce /pjuːs/ *adj* dark brownish purple

puck /pʌk/ *n* a hard flat circular piece of rubber used instead of a ball in the game of ICE HOCKEY

Puck 1 an imaginary creature that enjoys playing tricks on people 2 a character who behaves in this way in Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

puck-er /ˈpʌkə/ *v* [I;T (UP)] to tighten into uneven or unattractive folds: *Her little mouth puckered up and tears filled her eyes.* —**pucker** *n*

puck-ish /ˈpʌkɪʃ/ *adj* *lit* harmlessly playful; CHEEKY (from Puck, a playful FAIRY in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare): *a puckish grin* —*~ly adv*

pud /pʊd/ *n* [C;U] *BrE infml* for PUDDING

pud-ding /ˈpʊdɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] 1 *BrE* (a) sweet food served at the end of a meal: *What's for pudding?* —see DESSERT (USAGE) 2 *esp. BrE (usu. in comb.)* a usu. solid hot sweet dish based on pastry, rice, bread, etc., with fat and fruit or other substances added. Puddings are very TRADITIONAL British food and are very popular: *a helping of rice pudding* | (a) *bread and butter pudding* 3 *BrE (usu. in comb.)* an unsweetened dish of a mixture of flour, fat, etc., either covering or enclosing meat and boiled with it: (a) *steak and kidney pudding* 4 *AmE* a thick, soft, sweet DESSERT usu. made with milk, eggs, sugar, and a little flour, and served either hot or cold: *chocolate pudding* —see also BLACK PUDDING, CHRISTMAS PUDDING, MILK PUDDING, PLUM PUDDING, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, **the proof of the pudding is in the eating** (PROOF¹)

pudding ba-sin /ˈpʊdɪŋ/ *n* *BrE* 1 a deep round dish narrower at the bottom than the top, in which puddings are cooked 2 a haircut for straight hair in which the hair is cut round in a straight line and looks like a pudding basin

pud-dle¹ /ˈpʌdl/ *n* a small amount of water, esp. rain, lying in a hollow place in the ground

puddle² *v* [T] *tech* to mix (sand, clay, and water) into a mass

pu-den-dum /pjuːˈdendəm/ *n* -*da* /də/ *old-fash fml* the sexual organs, esp. of a woman

pudg-y /ˈpʌdʒi/ *adj* PODGY —*iness n* [U]

pueb-lo /ˈpwebləʊ/ *n* *Sp* a town; used esp. of towns in the SW US

Pueblo *n* [C;U] (a member of) a group of TRIBES of Native Americans, including the Hopi, living in the southwestern part of the US. They are known esp. for their ADOBE buildings. —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

pu-er-ile /ˈpjuərəɪl||-rəl/ *adj fml* childish; silly; IMMATURE: *his puerile sense of humour* —*ility* /pjuəˈrɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

pu-er-per-al /pjuːˈɜːpərəl||-ˈɜːr-/ *adj* [A] *med* of, after, or caused by giving birth (esp. in the phrase **puerperal fever**)

Puer-to Ri-co /ˌpwɜːtəʊ ˈriːkəʊ||ˌpɔːrtə-, ˌpweərtə-/ an island SE of the US; capital San Juan; population 3,658,000 (1989). People who live in Puerto Rico are US citizens but Puerto Rico is not a US state and governs itself. Many people from Puerto Rico move to the US in order to earn more money. —**Puerto Rican** /ˌpwɜːtəʊ ˈriːkən||ˌpɔːrtə-, ˌpweərtə-/ *n, adj*

Puerto Val-lar-ta /ˌpwɜːtəʊ vaɪˈlɑːtə/ ˌpɔːrtə vaɪˈlɑːtə, pweɪrtə-/ a town in western Mexico on the Pacific Ocean. Many Americans go on holiday to Puerto Vallarta.

puff¹ /pʌf/ *v* 1 [I] to breathe rapidly and with effort, usu. during or after hurried movement: *Running makes him puff heavily.* | *He puffed up the steep slope.* (=climbed while breathing fast) 2 [I+adv/prep] to breathe in and out while smoking a cigarette, pipe, etc.: *He puffed (away) at his pipe as he talked.* | *She puffed at a cigarette nervously.* 3 [I;T (OUT)] a (of smoke or steam) to blow or come out repeatedly, esp. in small amounts b to cause to come out in this way: *Don't puff cigarette smoke in my face.* 4 [I+adv/prep] to move along while sending out little clouds of smoke: *The old engine puffed along/puffed into the station.* 5 [T] *old-fash infml* to praise (esp. something for sale) more than is deserved: *critics puffing a new film* 6 *infml* **puff and blow** to show signs of making a great physical effort: *he was puffing and blowing carrying the heavy box up the stairs*

puff sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] 1 [(with)] to make larger, esp. with air: *The bird puffed out its feathers.* | *He puffed his chest out proudly.* 2 to put out the flame of (something) by blowing lightly: *to puff out a candle*

puff up *phr v* [I; T (=puff sthg. ↔ up)] to (cause to) swell: *Mustard makes my eyes puff up.* | (fig.) *He is puffed up (with pride).* (=too proud)

puff² *n* 1 [C] an act of puffing: *He took a puff at his cigarette.* 2 [C] a sudden light rush of air, smoke, etc.: *a puff of wind* —see picture at **PIECE** 3 [C] a decorative part of a garment that swells out in the middle: *puff sleeves* 4 [C] (*usu. in comb.*) a hollow piece of light pastry (**puff pastry**) that is filled with a soft usu. sweet mixture: *a lemon puff* 5 [U] *infml* humor breath 6 [C] *infml* a piece of writing praising a person or an entertainment —see also **POWDER PUFF**

puff-ball /ˌpʌfbɔːl/ *n* a type of **FUNGUS** that looks like a ball and bursts when ripe, giving off a cloud of **SPORES** (=seeds)

puffball skirt /ˌpʌfbɔːl/ *n* a short skirt which becomes wider between the waist and the lower edge, giving a rounded shape gathered at the lower edge

puffed /pʌft/ *adj* [F] *infml* (esp. of a person) breathing with difficulty; out of breath

puffed sleeve /ˌpʌft/ *n* a short **SLEEVE** which becomes wider in the middle and is gathered at the top and lower edge

puffed wheat /ˌpʌft/ *n* grains of wheat that are **PUFFED** up and eaten with milk (and sugar) as a breakfast **CEREAL**

puf-fin /ˌpʌfɪn/ *n* a North Atlantic seabird that has a very large brightly coloured beak —see picture at **WATER BIRD**

Puffin *n* *tdmk* a **PAPERBACK** book for children and young people produced by Penguin Books

Puff the Ma-gic Drag-on /ˌpʌftə ˈmædʒɪk ˈdræɡən/ an imaginary **DRAGON** in a children's song with the same name

puff-y /ˌpʌfi/ *adj* rather swollen: *puffy eyes* —**iness** *n* [U]

pug /pʌɡ/ *n* a small fat short-haired dog with a wide flat face and a short flat nose

Pu-get Sound /ˌpjʊːdʒɪt ˈsaʊnd/ *n* a body of water leading from the Pacific Ocean into the US state of Washington. The cities of Seattle and Tacoma are on its shores.

pu-gi-lis-m /ˌpjʊːdʒɪlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *fml* (in former times) the art or sport of **BOXING** —**tic** /ˌpjʊːdʒɪlɪstɪk/ *adj*

pu-gi-list /ˌpjʊːdʒɪlɪst/ *n* *fml* or *pomp* a **BOXER** (1)

pug-na-cious /pʌɡˈneɪʃəs/ *adj* *fml* (of people or behaviour, but not countries) fond of quarrelling and fighting —compare **BELLIGERENT**¹ (1) —**ly** *adv* —**nacity** /pʌɡˈnæsɪti/, **-naciousness** /ˌneɪʃənəs/ *n* [U] *fml*: known for his *pugnacity/pugnaciousness*

pu-is-sance¹ /ˌpjʊːsəns, ˈpwɪsəns/ *n* [U] *poet* or *old use* power or strength, esp. of a king

pu-is-sance² /ˌpwɪsəns/ *n* a competition in which riders have to make their horses jump over very high fences

pu-is-sant /ˌpjʊːsənt, ˈpwɪsənt/ *adj* *poet* or *old use* powerful

puke¹ /pjʊːk/ *v* [I;T (UP)] *sl* to be sick; **VOMIT**

puke² *n* [U] *sl* food brought back from the stomach through the mouth; **VOMIT**

puk-ka /ˌpʌkə/ *adj* *esp. IndE & PakE* 1 good; of high quality 2 real; **GENUINE** 3 *humor* stiff and formal (from the

fixed social manners supposed to be typical of the British in India during the period of British rule there)

pul-chri-tude /ˌpʌlkrɪˈtjuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* or *pomp* beauty, esp. of a woman —**tudinous** /ˌpʌlkrɪˈtjuːdɪnəs/ *adj*

Pul-it-zer Prize /ˌpʊlɪtsə ˈpraɪz/ *n* one of the eight prizes given every year for newspaper writing (**JOURNALISM**) and for **LITERARY** achievement (from Joseph Pulitzer (1847–1911), an American newspaper **PUBLISHER** who provided money for the prizes)

pull¹ /pʊl/ *v* 1 [I;T] to bring (something) along behind one while moving: *The horse was pulling a cart.* | *The train is pulled by a powerful engine.* —compare **DRAG** 2 [I;T] to use force on (something), esp. with the hands, in order to move it towards oneself or in the direction of the force: *Help me move the piano over here; you push and I'll pull.* | *In an emergency pull the cord to stop the train.* | *sailors pulling on a rope* [+obj+adv/prep] *She pulled her chair up to the table.* | *He pulled his socks on.* | *The cupboard door is stuck and I can't pull it open.* | *She pulled the fence apart/to pieces with her bare hands.* 3 [T] to bring or press towards one in order to make an apparatus work: *To fire the gun, just pull the trigger.* 4 [T (OUT, UP)] to take (something out of a place where it is fixed or enclosed), usu. with force: *The decayed tooth should be pulled (out).* | *to pull the cork from a bottle* | *She went into the garden to pull (up) a few onions for dinner.* 5 [T] to stretch and damage, by using force; **STRAIN**: *He's pulled a muscle trying to lift the piano.* 6 [T] to win, gain, or attract: *The big match pulled in an enormous crowd.* | *She's unlikely to pull many votes at the election.* | (*infml*) *He's hoping to pull the girls with his flashy new car.* 7 [T (on)] to bring out (a small weapon) ready for use: *He pulled a gun on me.* (=took out a gun and aimed it at me) 8 [T] *esp. BrE* to get (beer) out of a barrel by pulling a handle: *to pull a pint* 9 [I] (of a horse) to struggle and press the mouth hard against the **BIT**² 10 [T] *sl, esp. AmE* to succeed in doing (a crime, something daring, something annoying or deceiving, etc.): *They pulled a bank robbery.* | *What are you trying to pull?* (=What trick are you trying to play?) 11 [T] *tech* to hold back (a horse in a race, or a blow being aimed in **BOXING**) with the intention of avoiding victory —see also **pull one's punches** (**PUNCH**²) 12 [I;T] *tech* to hit (the ball in cricket or **GOLF**) away from a straight course and away from the side of the player's stronger hand 13 [I] *old-fash* to row —compare **PUSH**¹; see also **pull a fast one** (**FAST**¹), **pull one's finger out** (**FINGER**¹), **pull someone's leg** (**LEG**¹), **pull something out of the bag** (**BAG**¹), **pull to pieces** (**PIECE**¹), **pull rank** (**RANK**¹), **pull the rug out from under** (**RUG**), **pull one's socks up** (**SOCK**¹), **pull strings** (**STRING**¹), **pull one's weight** (**WEIGHT**¹), **pull the wool over someone's eyes** (**WOOL**)

pull ahead *phr v* [I (of)] to get in front by moving faster: *The taxi soon pulled ahead of the bus.*

pull at sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to seize and pull sharply and repeatedly: *She pulled at the thread until it came out of the cloth.* | *The child pulled at his mother's coat, wanting to be lifted up.* 2 *old-fash* to cause tobacco smoke to flow from (a pipe) 3 *old-fash* to take a long drink from (a container)

pull away *phr v* [I (from)] (esp. of a vehicle or its driver) to start to move away a from the side of the road b from another moving vehicle: *He jumped onto the bus just as it was pulling away.* | *The thieves steadily pulled away from the police car.*

pull sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] 1 to break in pieces and destroy (something built): *They are pulling down those houses to make room for a new hotel.* 2 to weaken in health

pull in *phr v* 1 [I] (of a train) to arrive at a station 2 [I] (of a vehicle or its driver) to move to one side and perhaps stop —compare **PULL over**; see also **PULL-IN** 3 [T] (**pull** sbdy. ↔ **in**) to take (a possible criminal) to a police station: *The police have pulled him in for questioning.* 4 [T] (**pull** sthg. ↔ **in**) *infml* to earn (a lot of money): *She's pulling in quite a bit in her new job.*

pull sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to succeed in (a difficult attempt): *The trick looked impossible, but she pulled it off.*

pull out *phr v* 1 [I] (of a train) to leave a station —compare **PULL away** 2 [I] (of a vehicle or its driver) to move a away from the side of the road b in front of another moving vehicle 3 [I;T (=pull sbdy. ↔ out)]

(of) to (cause to) leave a place or time of trouble: *The general pulled his troops out of the area.* | *Jim saw that the firm was going to be ruined, so he pulled out.* —see also **pull out all the stops** (STOP²)

pull over *phr v* [I;T (=pull sthg. ↔ over)] **a** (of a vehicle or its driver) to move over to one side of the road: *The policeman signalled to him to pull over.* **b** to drive (one's vehicle) to the side of the road —compare **PULL in** (2)

pull through *phr v* [I;T (=pull sbdy. through)] **1** also **pull round**— to (cause to) live in spite of illness or wounds: *He's very ill, but with careful nursing he'll pull through.* —compare **BRING through** **2** to (help to) succeed in spite of difficulties: *Margaret had difficulty with her work for the examinations, but her teacher pulled her through.*

pull together *phr v* **1** [I] (of a group of people) to work so as to help a shared effort **2** [T no pass.] (**pull sbdy. together**) to control the feelings of (oneself): *Stop acting like a baby! Pull yourself together!* **3** [T] (**pull sthg. together**) to cause to improve through proper organization: *We need an experienced man to pull the department together.*

pull up *phr v* **1** [I;T (**pull sthg. up**)] to (cause to) come to a stop: *The car pulled up at the traffic lights.* | *His unexpected criticism rather pulled me up short.* (=made me stop and think) **2** [I (to, with)] to come level (with another competitor in a race) **3** [T (on, for)] (**pull sbdy. up**) to stop (someone who is making mistakes) and express disapproval

pull² *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) pulling: *Give the rope a good/gentle pull.* | *the moon's pull on the sea* —compare **TUG** **2** [S] a difficult steep climb: *It's a long pull up this hill.* **3** [C (at)] *old-fash* an act of taking in tobacco smoke or of taking a long drink: *He took a pull at his pipe/at his beer.* **4** [C] (*usu. in comb.*) a rope, handle, etc., used for pulling something: *a bellpull* **5** [S;U] *infml* special influence; (unfair) personal advantage: *The importance of his family's name gives him a certain pull/lots of pull in this town.* **6** [C] a stroke in cricket or GOLF that PULLS¹ (12) the ball

pul-let /'pulɫt/ *n* a young hen during its first year of laying eggs

pul-ley /'puli/ *n* an apparatus consisting of a wheel over which a rope or chain can be moved, mainly used for lifting heavy things: *a system of pulleys*

pull-in /'·-/ *n* *BrE infml* a place by the roadside where vehicles may stop and the drivers can get drinks and light meals —see also **PULL in** (2)

Pull-man /'pulmən/ also **sleeping car** *AmE— tdmk n* a specially comfortable railway carriage, esp. for sleeping in (from George Mortimer Pullman (1831–97), an American inventor who fitted railway COACHES with beds for overnight travel)

pull-on /'·-/ *adj* [A] (of a garment) that is pulled on and fits tightly, without any fastenings: *a pull-on shirt*

pull-out /'pulaut/ *n* a part of a book, magazine, etc., that is complete in itself and may be taken out separately

pull-o-ver /'pul,əʊvə/ *n* a SWEATER that is pulled on over the head

pul-lu-late /'pʌljʊleɪt/ *v* [I] *fml* to breed or multiply quickly and in great numbers —**lation** /,pʌljʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pull-up /'·-/ also **chin-up** *AmE— n* an exercise in which one takes hold of a bar above one's head and uses one's arms to pull up the body until one's head is over the bar: *How many pull-ups can you do?*

pul-mo-na-ry /'pulmənəri, 'pʌ-||-neri/ *adj tech* of or having an effect on the lungs

pulp¹ /pʌlp/ *n* **1** [S;U] a soft almost liquid mass, such as the soft inside part of many fruits or vegetables: *A banana is mainly pulp, except for its skin.* | *These vegetables have been boiling too long; they're cooked to a pulp.* | (fig.) *I'll beat/mash him (in) to a pulp if I catch him!* | (fig.) *a terrifying teacher who could always reduce me*

to (a) pulp (=make me helplessly afraid and unable to act) **2** [U] wood or other vegetable materials, such as cotton cloth, softened and used for making paper —**pulpy** *adj*

pulp² *v* [T] to cause (esp. books, etc.) to become pulp

pulp³ *adj* [A] *derog* (of books and magazines) cheaply produced on rough paper and containing matter of bad quality, esp. shocking stories about sex and violence: *pulp novels*

pul-pit /'pulpit/ *n* **1** [C] a small raised enclosure of wood or stone in a church, from which the priest speaks to the worshippers —see picture at **CHURCH** **2** [*the*] *fml* (the Christian priesthood as a profession which includes) religious teaching in church

pulp-wood /'pʌlpwʊd/ *n* [U] crushed wood that is used to make paper

pul-sar /'pʌlsɑː/ *n* a star-like object that usu. cannot be seen, but is known to exist because of the regular radio signals that it gives out —compare **QUASAR**

pul-sate /pʌl'seɪt/ || 'pʌlseɪt/ *v* [I (with)] **1** to shake very regularly; **VIBRATE**: *The air seemed to pulsate with the bright light.* | *the pulsating beat of Latin American dance music* **2** to **PULSE**² (1)

pul-sa-tion /pʌl'seɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. tech* a beat of the heart or any regular beat that can be measured **2** [U] pulsating movement

pulse¹ /pʌls/ *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] the regular beating of blood in the main blood tubes carrying blood from the heart, esp. as felt at the wrist: *The doctor felt/took the woman's pulse.* (=counted the number of beats per minute) | *His pulse quickened/raced.* (=his heart beat very quickly) | *Her pulse was strong/weak.* **2** a strong regular beat as in music, on a drum, etc. **3 a** a short sound as sent by radio **b** a small change in the quantity of electricity going through something, esp. that in a telephone which makes it able to ask for connection with another telephone

pulse² *v* [I] **1** [(through, with)] to beat steadily as the heart does; move or flow with a steady rapid beat and sound: *He could feel the blood pulsing through his veins as he waited for the signal to attack.* | *One could feel the excitement pulsing through the crowd.* **2** (of a machine) to send out signals in regular **PULSES**¹ (3)

pulse³ *n* [*usu. pl.*] (the seeds of) beans, PEAS, LENTILS, etc., used as food

pul-ver-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'pʌlvəraɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to crush into a fine grain of powder or dust **2 infml** to defeat thoroughly —**ization** /,pʌlvərəɪ'zeɪʃən/ || -rə-/ *n* [U]

pu-ma /'pju:mə/ *n* **pumas** or **puma** a COUGAR

pum-ice /'pʌmɪs/ also **pumice stone** /'·-/ *n* [U] a very light, silver-grey rock, used in pieces or in powder form for cleaning and for rubbing surfaces smooth

pum-mel /'pʌmə/ || also **pommel** *esp. AmE— v -ll- BrE || -l- AmE* [T] to hit repeatedly, esp. with two FISTS (closed hands): *When he picked up his small daughter she pummelled him angrily on the chest.*

pump¹ /pʌmp/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a machine for forcing liquids, air, or gas into or out of something: *an old-fashioned pump for drawing water from a well* | *The heart is a kind of natural pump that moves the blood around the body.* | *He blew up his car tyres with a foot pump.* | *to operate a petrol pump* | *a bicycle pump* —see also **STOMACH PUMP** and see picture at **BICYCLE** **2** [S] an act of pumping —see also **HEAT PUMP**, **prime the pump** (**PRIME**³), and see picture at **ENGINE**

pumps



petrol pump

bicycle pump

pump² *v* **1** [T+obj+adv/prep] **a** to empty or fill (a

container) using a pump: *She pumped up her car tyres.*
b to move (liquids, air, or gas) with a pump: *The doctor pumped the poison out of the child's stomach.* | (fig.) *The government has been pumping money into new road-building schemes.* (=spending a lot of money on them) **2** [I (AWAY)] **a** to work a pump: *He pumped away furiously.*
b to work like a pump: *My heart was pumping very fast.*
3 [I+ *adv/prep*] (of a liquid) to come out in short bursts as if from a pump: *blood pumping from a wound* **4** [T] to move (something) up and down like the handle of an old-fashioned pump: *He pumped his friend's hand up and down, saying how glad he was to see him.* **5** [T] *infml* to repeatedly ask (someone) questions, esp. indirect ones, in the hope of finding out something: *I tried to pump him for details of their other contracts.*

pump³ *n* a flat light shoe for dancing, etc. —see PAIR (USAGE)

pump-action /'pʌmpˌækʃən/ *adj* using the action of a pump to force something in or out: *a pump-action shotgun/can* (e.g. of HAIRSPRAY)

pump-per-nick-el /'pʌmpənɪkəl/ || 'pʌmpər/ *n* [U] a heavy dark brown bread, usu. cut into thin pieces before being sold

pump-kin /'pʌmpkɪn/ *n* [C;U] (a plant with) a very large dark yellow roundish fruit that grows on the ground, often used in PIES and also to make LANTERNS at Halloween. In the US, **pumpkin pie** is usu. eaten as part of Thanksgiving Day dinner. In the story of Cinderella, the FAIRY GODMOTHER changed a pumpkin into a COACH to take Cinderella to the BALL, and people sometimes make jokes about turning into a pumpkin at midnight, esp. if they have been out late at a party etc., because this is what happened to Cinderella's coach. —see also CINDERELLA and see colour picture on page 357

pump room /'pʌmp ruːm/ *n* a room at a SPA where people come to drink the water

pun¹ /pʌn/ also **play on words**— *n* an amusing use of a word or phrase that has two meanings, or of words with the same sound but different meanings: *He made this pun: "Seven days without water make one weak."* (=1 week) | *to groan at a bad pun*

pun² *v* -nn- [I (on, upon)] to make puns: *He punned on the two meanings of "one" and the similarity of "weak" and "week".* —see also PUNSTER

punch¹ /pʌntʃ/ *v* **1** [T (in, on)] to hit (someone or something) hard with the FIST (closed hand): *He punched the man in the chest/on the nose.* —see SLAP² (USAGE) **2** [T] to use a PUNCH³ to cut (a hole) in (something): *The ticket-collector punched my ticket/punched a hole in my ticket.* **3** *AmE* to move (cattle) from one place to another — ~er *n*
punch in, punch out *phr v* [I] *AmE* for CLOCK in, CLOCK out

punch sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *BrE infml* to hit (someone) repeatedly —see also PUNCH-UP

punch² *n* **1** [C (in, on)] a quick strong blow made with the FIST (closed hand): *I'd like to give that man a punch on the nose.* | *a straight punch to the jaw* —see also **pack a punch** (PACK²) **2** [S;U] *apprec* forcefulness; effective power: *His speech lacked punch.* —see also PUNCHY **3** **pull one's punches** to express one's bad opinion more gently than is deserved

punch³ *n* a metal tool for cutting holes: *a ticket punch*

punch⁴ *n* [C *usu. sing.*;U] (often in *comb.*) a drink made from fruit juice, sugar, water, etc., and usu. wine or other alcohol: *a bowl of rum punch*

Punch¹ a British weekly magazine (1841–1992) known for its humorous articles and its LITERARY criticism

Punch² *n* as **pleased/proud** as **Punch** extremely pleased/proud

Punch and Ju-dy show /ˌpʌntʃ ən ˈdʒuːdi ʃəʊ/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a PUPPET show for children in which the main character Punch (sometimes called Mr Punch) fights humorously with his wife Judy. Punch is an ugly character with a long nose who enjoys hitting people,

Punch and Judy



esp. Judy or their baby, with his stick. Punch and Judy shows are TRADITIONAL events in British life and are usu. performed at seaside and holiday towns in summer.

punch ball /'pʌntʃ bɔːl/ also **punch-bag** /'pʌntʃ bæɡ/ || also **punch-ing bag** /'pʌntʃ ɪŋ bæɡ/ — *n* a large leather ball or bag, fixed on a spring or hung from a rope, which is punched (PUNCH¹) for exercise

punch bowl /'pʌntʃ bɔːl/ *n* a large bowl in which PUNCH⁴ is served

punch-drunk /'pʌntʃ drʌŋk/ *adj* **1** (of a professional fighter) suffering brain damage from repeated blows on the head in BOXING **2** *infml* very confused, esp. by continual misfortune or bad treatment

punched card /ˌpʌntʃt ˈkɑːd/ also **punch card** /'pʌntʃ kɑːd/ — *n* a card with a pattern of holes in it for putting into a computer, each of which carries a particular piece of information to the computer

punch line /'pʌntʃ laɪn/ *n* the last few words of a joke or story, that give meaning to the whole and cause amusement or surprise

punch-up /'pʌntʃ ʌp/ *n* *BrE infml* a fight —see also PUNCH up

punch-y /'pʌntʃi/ *adj sl* having a forceful, effective quality; INCISIVE —iness *n* [U]

punc-til-i-o /pʌŋk'tɪliəʊ/ *n* -os [C;U] *fml* (an example of) careful attention paid to every small exact detail of ceremonial behaviour, performance of duties, etc.

punc-til-i-ous /pʌŋk'tɪliəs/ *adj fml, usu. apprec* (of a person or behaviour) very exact and particular about details of behaviour or duty — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

punc-tu-al /'pʌŋktʃuəl/ *adj* not late; happening, doing something, etc., at the exact time; PROMPT: *She's never punctual for appointments so you can expect to be kept waiting.* | *The cat makes a punctual appearance at mealtimes.* — ~ly *adv* : *Be there punctually at ten o'clock.* — ~ity /ˌpʌŋktʃuːəlɪti/ *n* [U]

punc-tu-ate /'pʌŋktʃueɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to divide (written matter) into sentences, phrases, etc., with PUNCTUATION MARKS **2** [(with) *usu. pass.*] to break the flow of, repeatedly: *The tense silence was punctuated by bursts of gunfire.* | *He punctuated his solemn remarks with a few well-chosen jokes.*

punc-tu-a-tion /ˌpʌŋktʃuːeɪʃən/ *n* [U] the marks used in punctuating a piece of writing: *A piece of writing without any punctuation is difficult to understand.*

punctuation marks

•	full stop <i>BrE</i> / period <i>AmE</i>	?	question mark
,	comma	!	exclamation mark <i>BrE</i> / exclamation point <i>AmE</i>
;	semi-colon	()	bracket
:	colon	“ ”	quotation marks

punctuation mark /ˌpʌntʃuːeɪʃən/ *n* a sign used in punctuating, e.g. a COMMA a QUESTION MARK, or a HYPHEN: *Make sure you put the proper punctuation marks in your essay.*

punc-ture¹ /'pʌŋktʃə/ *n* a small hole made with a sharp point through a soft surface, esp. in a tyre: *I'm sorry I'm late; my car/I had a puncture.* | *to mend a puncture*

▷ USAGE In the US, most people would use FLAT¹ (4) to mean a puncture as well as not having enough air in the tyre: *She ran over some glass on her bicycle and got a flat.* ◁

puncture² *v* **1** [I; T] to (cause to) get a puncture: *A nail on the road punctured the tyre.* | *Her rubber ball punctured when it fell on a prickly bush.* | *He's in hospital with a punctured lung.* **2** [T] to destroy as if by bursting: *His unexpected failure punctured his self-importance.*

pun-dit /'pʌndɪt/ *n* sometimes *humor* a person who knows a great deal about a particular subject, esp. one whose opinion is asked for by others: *political pundits*

pun-gent /'pʌndʒənt/ *adj* **1** (of a taste or smell) strong, sharp, and stinging: *the pungent aroma of garlic* **2** (of speech or writing) producing a sharp direct effect: *pungent remarks about my lateness* — ~ly *adv* — ~gency *n* [U]

pun-ish /'pʌnɪʃ/ v [T] **1** a [(for)] to cause (someone who has broken the law or done something wrong) to suffer. e.g. by sending them to prison or making them do something that they do not want to do: *Motorists should be severely punished for dangerous driving.* | *Their mother punished them for their rudeness.* | *It wasn't your fault; stop punishing yourself!* (=stop blaming yourself) **b** to cause someone to suffer for (a crime or fault): *Dangerous driving should be severely punished.* **2** to deal roughly with: *to punish one's opponent at golf* | *to punish an engine*

pun-ish-a-ble /'pʌnɪʃəbəl/ *adj* [(by)] that may be punished by law: a punishable offence | Murder is punishable by death in some countries.

pun-ish-ing¹ /'pʌnɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* *infml* that makes one thoroughly tired and weak: *a long, punishing climb* | *a punishing workload* — *~ly* *adv*

punishing² *n* [S] *infml* a case of rough or damaging treatment: *Your car seems to have taken a punishing.*

pun-ish-ment /'pʌnɪʃmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of punishing or process of being punished: *We are determined that the terrorists will not escape punishment.* | *capital punishment* (=punishment by being officially killed) **2** [C (for)] a way in which a person is punished: *She sent her son to bed early as a punishment (for breaking the window).* | *He took his punishment like a man.* (=bravely) | *to mete out punishments* | *a harsh/severe/unjust punishment* **3** [U] *infml* rough treatment; damage: *With five active children in the house, the furniture had taken a lot of punishment.* **4** Let the punishment fit the crime *quote* a phrase from the OPERA *Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan, often used when saying that a person should be punished very severely for a serious crime —compare PENALTY

pu-ni-tive /'pjʊnɪtɪv/ *adj* 1 intended as punishment: *to take punitive action against offenders* 2 very severe; causing hardship: *punitive taxation* — *~ly adv*

Pun·jab /'pʌndʒɑ:b/ [*the*] an area in Pakistan and NW India which contains the city of Amritsar, a holy place for followers of the Sikh religion. Many Sikhs would like to have independence from India, and there has been fighting in the Punjab about this.

Pun·ja·bi, **Panjabi** /pʌn'dʒɑ:bi/ *n* **1** [C] a person from the main group of people living in the Punjab in India **2** [U] their language – **Punjabi, Panjabi** *adj*

punk¹ /pʌŋk/ *adj* **1** [A] of a movement among certain young people in the 1970s and 1980s who were opposed to the values of money-based society and who expressed this esp. in loud violent music (**punk rock**), strange clothing, and hair of unusual colours **2** *AmE rare sl* in poor health

punks



punk² *n* 1 also **punk rock-er**
/ɪˌ ˈ ʌ ˌ /— someone who fol-
lows punk styles in music, dress, etc. 2 *AmE derog sl*
an esp. young man or boy, esp. one who fights and breaks
the law (often in the phrase **young/little punk**) 3 *AmE*
a substance that will burn without a flame, used to light
FIREWORKS etc.

pun-kah /'paŋkə/ *n* *IndE & PakE* a FANhung across a room and swung backwards and forwards by pulling a rope, used, esp. formerly, in hot countries

punk rock /ˌpʌŋk ˈrɒk/ a style of rock music played very fast and loud with often violent and offensive words, made popular in the 1970s by groups such as the Sex Pistols

pun-net /'pʌnɪt/ *n* *esp. BrE* (the amount contained in) a small square basket in which soft fruits are sold: *a pun-net of strawberries*

pun·ster /'pʌnstə/ *n* a person who makes PUNS

punt¹ /pʌnt/ *n* **1** a long narrow flat-bottomed river boat with square ends, moved by someone standing on it and pushing a long pole against the bottom of the river **2** (in FOOTBALL (2)) a kick in which the ball is kicked after being dropped from the hands: *a punt which went wide of the goalposts*

punt² *v* 1 [I;T] to go or take by punt: *to punt (the family) up the river* 2 [T] to move (a boat) by pushing a pole

against the bottom of the river **3** [I;T] (in FOOTBALL (2))
to kick a ball that has been dropped from the hands: *He*
punted the ball forty yards.

punter /'pʌntə/ *n* *esp. BrE* **1** someone who punts **2** *infml* a person who makes a BET on the result of a horse race **3** *infml* the user of a product or service; customer: *We've got to cater for the needs of the punter.* **4** *BrE infml || john AmE sl* —a PROSTITUTE's customer

pu·ny /'pjʊni/ *adj derog* small and weak; poorly developed:
puny little arms and legs —**niness** *n* [U]

pup¹/pʌp/*n* **1** a young SEAL¹ or OTTER **2** a PUPPY—see also
sell someone a pup (SELL¹)

pup² *v* -pp- [I] *esp. tech* to give birth to pups

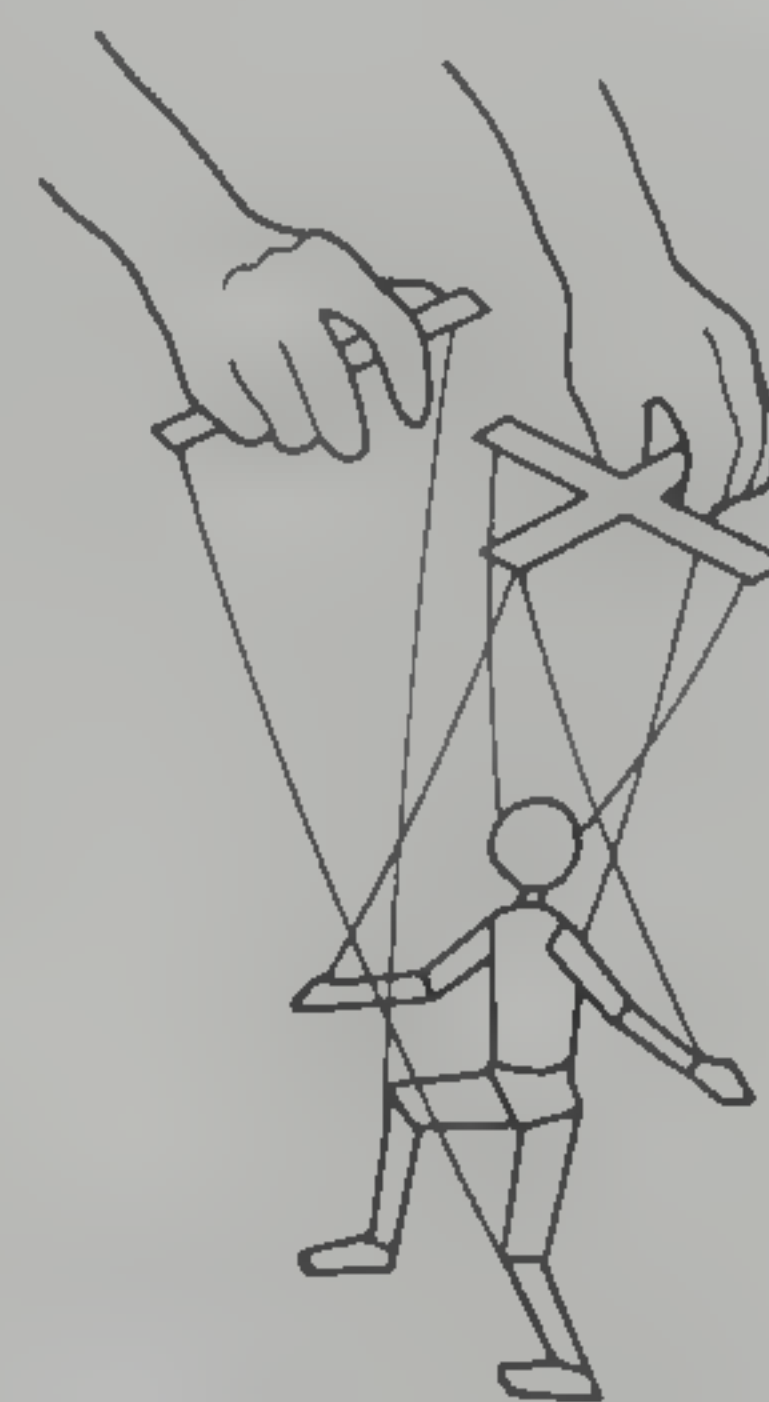
pupa /'pju:pə/ *n* -**pas** or -**paɪ** /pi:/ (the state or form of) an insect in the middle stage of its development to a full-grown form, contained in and protected by a hard or soft covering —compare CHRYSALIS, COCOON¹ —**pal** *adj*: *in the pupal stage*

pu·pil /'pju:pəl/ *n* a person, esp. a child, who is being taught: *The school has about 500 pupils.* | *one of my best pupils* —see STUDENT (USAGE)

pupil² *n* the small black round opening in the middle of the coloured part of the eye, through which light passes
—see picture at EYE

pup-pet /'pʌpəɪt/ *n* **1** also **marionette**— a toylike jointed figure of a person or animal that is made to move by someone pulling wires or strings at a theatre performance (a **puppet show**) **2** also **glove puppet**— a toylike hollow cloth figure of a person or animal moved by putting one's hand inside it **3** *often derog* a person or group that is controlled by someone else: *Are we the puppets of fate?* | a **puppet government**

puppet



pup·pe·teer /ˌpʌpəˈtiə/ *n* an entertainer who performs with puppets

pup-py /'pʌpi/ also **pup**— *n* **1** a young dog **2** *old-fashion* a foolish self-important young man

puppy fat /'..-/ *BrE* || **baby fat** *AmE*— *n* [U] *infml*, often *euph* fatness in boys and girls that usually disappears as they grow older

puppy love /'l..../ also **calf love**— *n* [U] *sometimes derog*
a young boy's or girl's love for esp. an older person of the
opposite sex, which does not last long or lead to sexual
relations

pup tent /'·-/ *n* a tent for two people, with ends shaped like an A and using poles and ropes to hold it up

pur-blind /'pɜːblaɪnd||'pɜːr-/ *adj fml or lit* dull; stupid

Pur-cell /'pɜ:səl||'pɜ:r-, **Henry** (1659–95) an English COM-
POSER who is remembered esp. for his OPERA *Dido and*
Aeneas

Purcell Room /'ɜː.əl/ [*the*] a room in the South Bank Arts Centre in London, used esp. for performances of CHAMBER MUSIC and named after Henry Purcell

pur·chase¹ /'pɜ:tʃəz||'pɜ:r-/ v [T] fml 1 to buy: *to secure a loan to purchase a new car* | *The purchasing power of the dollar (=the amount it will buy) has declined.* 2 to gain at the cost of effort or loss: *They purchased life at the expense of honour.* —**chasable** adj —**chaser** n

purchase² *n* **1** [U] *fml* the act of buying: *He gave his son some money for the purchase of his school books.* — see also HIRE PURCHASE **2** [C often *pl.*] *fml* **a** an act of buying: *She made several purchases in the dress shop.* **b** an article that has just been bought: *Do you wish us to deliver your purchases?* **3** [S;U] a firm hold for pulling or raising something: *The climber tried to gain a purchase with his foot on a narrow ledge.*

purchase tax /'...-/ *n* [U] (in Britain) a tax charged on all goods except those necessary for life, such as food, and collected by being added to the price in shops (after 1973 changed to VAT in Britain) —compare SALES TAX

pur-dah /'pɜ:də, -dɑ:/'pɜ:r-/ *n* [U] *IndE & PakE* (esp. among Muslims) the system of keeping women out of public view

pure /pjʊə/ *adj* **1** not mixed with anything else: "Is this sweater made of pure wool?" "No, it's 60% wool and 40% acrylic." | *pure silver* | *a horse of pure Arab breed* **2** clean; free from dirt, dust, bacteria, or any harmful matter: *The air by the sea is pure and healthy.* | *pure drinking water* **3** free from evil, and esp. without sexual thoughts or experience: *I'm sure his motives were pure.* | *a pure young girl* **4** (of colour or sound) clear; unmixed with other colours or sounds: *a cloudless sky of the purest blue* **5** [A no comp.] *infml* complete; thorough; only: *By pure chance/coincidence my boss was flying on the same plane as me.* | *The error was due to carelessness pure and simple.* (=only carelessness) **6** [A] (of an art or branch of study) considered only for its own nature as a skill or exercise of the mind, separate from any use that might be made of it: *pure science* —compare APPLIED; see also IMPURE, PURELY, PURIFY **7** as pure as the driven snow very pure in character or moral behaviour, sometimes used to mean the opposite in conversation: *He makes himself out to be as pure as the driven snow, but some of his dealings have been, quite simply, dishonest.* **8** to the pure all things are pure saying from the Bible, usu. humor people who are sexually INNOCENT do not understand rude things — ~ness *n* [U]

pure-blood-ed /ˌpjʊəˈblʌdɪd/ || ˌpjʊər-/ *adj* descended from one race with no mixture of other races: *pureblooded Native Americans* —compare PEDIGREE (1), THOROUGHbred

pure-bred /ˌpjʊəbrɛd/ || ˌpjʊər-/ *n, adj* (an animal) descended from one breed with no mixture of other breeds: *purebred hens* —compare THOROUGHbred

pu-ree¹, **purée** /ˌpjʊəreɪ/ || ˌpjʊˈreɪ/ *n* [C;U] (often in comb.) food boiled to a soft half-liquid mass: *an apple puree*

puree², **purée** *v* [T] to make into a puree: *She pureed the vegetables for the baby.*

pure-ly /ˌpjʊəli/ || ˌpjʊərli/ *adv* completely; wholly; only: *I helped him purely and simply out of friendship.* | *a decision that was taken for purely political reasons*

pure math-e-mat-ics /ˌpjʊəˈmæθɪks/ || also **pure maths** /ˌpjʊəˈmæθs/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* — *n* the science of numbers treated as a subject of interest in its own right and not originally developed for practical purposes —compare APPLIED MATHEMATICS

pur-ga-tion /pɜːˈgeɪʃən/ || pɜːr-/ *n* [U] *fml* the act of purging (PURGE¹)

pur-ga-tive /ˌpɜːgətɪv/ || ˌpɜːr-/ *n, adj* (a medicine) that causes the bowels to empty: *This fruit often has a purgative effect.*

pur-ga-to-ry /ˌpɜːgətəri/ || ˌpɜːrgətɔːri/ *n* [U] **1** (often cap.) (esp. according to the Roman Catholic religion) a state or place in which the soul of a dead person must be made pure by suffering for wrong-doing on Earth, until it is fit to enter Heaven —compare LIMBO¹ **2** often humor a place, state, or time of great suffering: *It's purgatory listening to Tim's attempts to play the guitar.* —rial /ˌpɜːgəˈtɔːriəl/ || ˌpɜːr-/ *adj*

purge¹ /pɜːdʒ/ || pɜːrdʒ/ *v* [T] **1** to get rid of (unwanted people) in (a state, political party, etc.) by removal from office, driving out of the country, killing, etc.: *to purge a political party* [+obj+of] *to purge the party of dissidents* [+obj+from] *to purge dissidents from the party* **2** [(of, from)] esp. lit to make clean and free from (something evil): *to purge one's soul from sin* | *to purge one's spirit of hatred* **3** law to remove the bad effects of (an act of wrong-doing) for oneself: *The judge ordered him to purge his contempt by apologizing to the court.* **4** tech or old-fash to clear waste matter from (the bowels)

purge² *n* **1** an act or set of actions intended to get rid of unwanted members of a group suddenly, often unjustly, and often by force: *The new president carried out a purge of disloyal army officers.* **2** tech or old-fash a medicine that clears the bowels of waste matter

pu-ri-fy /ˌpjʊərɪfaɪ/ *v* [T (of)] to make PURE (esp. 2): *This salt has been purified for use in medicine.* —fier *n*: an air purifier —fication /ˌpjʊərɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]: ritual purification

Pu-rim /ˌpʊərɪm/ a JEWISH holiday in memory of the Jews' escape from the destruction planned for them after Mordecai (a Jew) refused to lie on the floor in front of his Persian ruler. The story is told in the book of Esther in the Bible.

pur-ist /ˌpjʊərɪst/ *n* someone who is always (too) careful to practise and preserve what they regard as the correct way of doing something, esp. in matters of grammar, use

of words, etc.: *A purist would say "To whom does this belong?" but nowadays "Who does this belong to?" is much more common.* —ism *n* [U]

pu-ri-tan /ˌpjʊərɪtən/ *adj, n* usu. derog (of or being) a person who has rather hard fixed standards of behaviour and self-control, and thinks pleasure is unnecessary or wrong: *his puritan beliefs* | *He's too much of a puritan to enjoy dancing.*

Puritan *n, adj* (a member) of a PROTESTANT religious group in the 16th and 17th centuries who wished to make religion simpler and less ceremonial. Most broke away from the Church of England. They were treated badly in England at the end of the 17th century and many went to America to find religious freedom. In the US, Puritan beliefs have had a strong influence on the American way of life.

pu-ri-tan-i-cal /ˌpjʊərɪˈtænɪkəl/ *adj* derog like a puritan: *a puritanical father who wouldn't let his children watch television* —cally /kli/ *adv*

pu-ri-tan-is-m /ˌpjʊərɪtənɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** (cap.) the beliefs and practices of the Puritans **2** often derog living according to severe and demanding rules, esp. in matters of religion and morals: *She went to live with her boyfriend as a protest against her family's puritanism.*

pu-ri-ty /ˌpjʊərɪti/ *n* [U] the quality or state of being pure —opposite IMPURITY

purl¹ /pɜːl/ || pɜːr/ *n* [U] tech the second of the two main stitches in knitting (KNIT), made by doing an ordinary stitch backwards: *a purl stitch* | *three plain, two purl* —compare KNIT², PLAIN⁴

purl² *v* [I;T] tech (usu. in instructions) to use the purl stitch (on): *Knit one, purl one.* | *Purl (for) three rows.* —compare KNIT¹

purl³ *v* [I] lit (of a small stream) to flow with a low gentle continuous noise

purl-er /ˌpɜːlə/ || ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [S] *BrE old-fash infml* a heavy fall, usu. head first: *He came a purler.* (=fell heavily)

pur-lie-us /ˌpɜːljuz/ || ˌpɜːrluːz/ *n* [(the) P (of)] lit or pomp the area in and around a place

pur-loin /pɜːˈlɔɪn, ˌpɜːlɔɪn/ || -ɜːr-/ *v* [T] *fml* or humor to steal (esp. something of small value)

pur-ple¹ /ˌpɜːpəl/ || ˌpɜːr-/ *adj* of the colour purple

purple² *n* **1** [U] a dark colour made of a mixture of red and blue —compare MAUVE, VIOLET **2** [the] esp. lit (in former times) dark red or purple garments worn only by people of very high rank: *He was born to the purple.* (=born into a royal family)

purple heart /ˌpɜːpəl hɑːt/ *n* *BrE infml* a small PILL containing a drug (AMPHETAMINE) that causes excitement, often taken by drug ADDICTS

Purple Heart *n* a MEDAL (=a coinlike piece of metal) given as an honour to be worn by soldiers of the US wounded in battle

purple pas-sage /ˌpɜːpəl ˈpɑːsɪdʒ/ || also **purple patch** /ˌpɜːpəl ˈpætʃ/ *n* a splendid or too grand-sounding part in the middle of a piece of writing

pur-plish /ˌpɜːplɪʃ/ || ˌpɜːr-/ *adj* slightly purple: *purplish blue*

pur-port¹ /pɜːˈpɔːt/ || pɜːrˈpɔːrt/ *v* [T+to-v;obj] *fml* to claim to be; have an (intended) appearance of being: *The orders, which purported to be signed by the general, were an enemy trick.*

pur-port² /ˌpɜːpɔːt, -pət/ || ˌpɜːrpɔːrt/ *n* [U (of)] *fml* the general meaning or intention of someone's words or actions: *The purport of the message seemed to be this: Work harder or find another job.*

pur-pose¹ /ˌpɜːpəs/ || ˌpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C] an intention or plan; a person's reason for an action: *What was the purpose of her visit?* | *Did you come to London to see your family, or for business purposes?* | *He's registered as a single parent, for tax purposes.* **2** [C] a use; effect; result: *Don't waste your money; put it to some good purpose.* | *I haven't got a pen, but a pencil will answer/serve the same purpose.* (=will do what is needed) | *This computer is not quite as powerful as the other one, but for all practical purposes* (=in most cases) *it is just as good.* **3** [U] steady determined following of an aim: *a man of purpose* | *a sense of purpose* **4** on purpose: a intentionally: "I'm sorry I stepped on your toe; it was an accident." "It wasn't! You did it on purpose." b with a particular stated intention:

I came here on purpose to see you. **5** to little/no/some/good purpose with little/no/some/good result **6** to the purpose old-fash useful; very much connected with the subject —see also PURPOSELY **7** accidentally on purpose BrE infml with conscious intention but also making something appear to be an accident: *He dropped the vase accidentally on purpose because he hated it.*

purpose² *v* [T] fml to have as one's intention: [+to-v/v-ing] *He purposes to visit America/visiting America.*

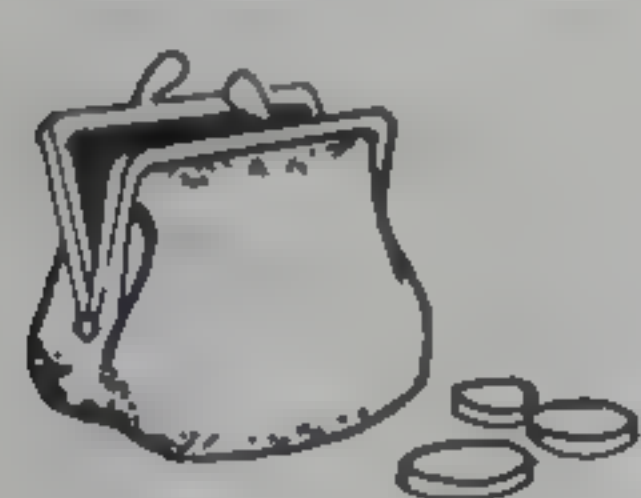
purpose-built /, - ˈɪ- ˈɪ- / *adj* esp. BrE originally made for a particular use: *The architect has designed purpose-built flats for old people.*

pur-pose-ful /'pɜːpəsəfəl/ || 'pɜːr- / *adj* (of people or behaviour) having a clear aim; determined: *He went out with a purposeful air.* — ~ly *adv*

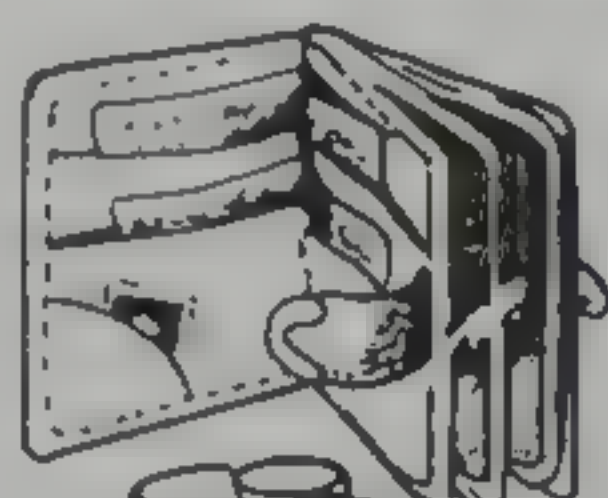
pur-pose-less /'pɜːpəsələs/ || 'pɜːr- / *adj* aimless; meaningless — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

pur-pose-ly /'pɜːpəsli/ || 'pɜːr- / *adv* intentionally: *I purposely left it where he would see it.*

purr /pɜːr/ *v* **1** [I] to make the low continuous sound produced by a pleased cat: *The cat purred loudly.* | (fig) *The big car purred along the road.* **2** [I] (of a person) to show quiet happiness in a pleasant low voice **3** [T] to express or say in this way: "Come again, won't you?" she purred. — **purr** *n*



purse BrE/
change purse AmE



purse BrE/
wallet AmE



wallet



handbag esp. BrE/
purse AmE

purse

purse¹ /pɜːs/ || pɜːrs/ *n* **1** BrE a small flattish bag, usu. made of leather or plastic, used esp. by women a for carrying coins (AmE coin purse) b (esp. divided into two parts) for carrying both coins and paper money (AmE wallet) **2** [C] AmE a woman's HANDBAG **3** [S] an amount of money to spend: *That beautiful picture is beyond my purse.* (=I can't afford it) | *The first prize will be a purse of \$1000.* —see also PRIVY PURSE **4** you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear you cannot make something good from material that is of bad quality

purse² *v* [T (UP)] to bring (esp. the lips) together in little folds: *She pursed (up) her lips with disgust.*

purs-er /'pɜːsə/ || 'pɜːr- / *n* an officer on a ship who keeps the ship's accounts and is also in charge of the travellers' rooms, comfort, etc.

purse strings /'ɪ- ˈɪ- / *n* hold the purse strings to control the spending of the money of a family, a firm, etc.

pur-su-ance /pə'sjuːəns/ || pər'suː- / *n* in (the) pursuance of fml in the process of performing: *He was wounded in the pursuance of his duty.*

pur-sue /pə'sjuː/ || pər'suː/ *v* [T] **1** to follow, esp. in order to catch, kill, or defeat: *The police are pursuing an escaped prisoner.* | *The tourists were pursued by beggars.* | (fig.) *Bad luck has pursued us all through the year.* **2** to continue steadily with; carry on: *She is pursuing her studies at the university.* | *He was losing the argument, so he said, "I'd rather not pursue the matter".* | *The government is pursuing a policy of non-intervention.*

pur-su-er /pə'sjuːə/ || pər'suːə/ *n* a person or animal that PURSUES (1): *The deer ran faster than its pursuers.*

pur-suit /pə'sjuːt/ || pər'suːt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of pursuing: *The police car raced through the streets in pursuit of another car.* | *The pop stars ran from the theatre to their car, with dozens of fans in hot pursuit.* (=close behind them) | a pursuit vehicle (=used for chasing the enemy) | (fig.) *The government is selling off the railways, in pursuit of* (=following) *its policy of privatization.* **2** [C] fml an activity to which one gives one's time, whether as work or for pleasure

pu-ru-lent /'pjʊərələnt/ *adj* med containing or producing PUS (=poisonous yellow matter) in the body —lence *n* [U]

pur-vey /pɜː'veɪ/ || pɜːr- / *v* [T (to)] fml or tech to supply (food or other goods) as a trade — ~ or *n*

pur-view /'pɜːvjʊː/ || 'pɜːr- / *n* [U (of)] fml or lit the limit of one's concern, activity, or knowledge: *facts which fall outside the purview of this inquiry.*

pus /pʌs/ *n* [U] a thick yellowish liquid produced in an infected wound or poisoned part of the body

push¹ /pʊʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to use sudden or steady pressure in order to move (someone or something) forward, away from oneself, or to a different position: *He pushed me, and I fell into the water.* | *She pushed the chairs out of the way.* | *You stop the machine by pushing this button.* | *Don't push: wait for your turn to get on the bus.* | *You push it from behind, and I'll pull it.* | *Please push the door shut/push the door to.* (=into a shut position) **2** [I+adv/prep;T+obj+adv/prep] to make (one's way) by pushing: *She pushed past me.* | *He pushed his way to the front of the crowd.* **3** [T (into)] to try to force (someone) to do something by continual urging; put pressure on: *I'm not pushing you; if you don't want the job, don't take it.* | *He pushed her into making a decision.* | *Don't push yourself too hard* (=work too hard) *or you'll get ill.* [+obj+to-v] *His parents are pushing him to study medicine.* **4** [T] infml to try to draw attention to (someone or something) e.g. by advertising, in order to gain customers, support, approval, etc.: *The company are pushing their new product.* | *He used the sales conference to push his latest ideas.* **5** [T] infml to sell (drugs that are not legal) —see also PUSHER **6** be pushing infml to be nearly (a stated age): *You wouldn't think so to look at her, but she's pushing 60.* **7** push one's luck infml to take a risk, esp. because of a previous success **8** push the 'boat out BrE infml to make a special effort to make something enjoyable, esp. by spending more money than usual: *They really pushed the boat out for their daughter's wedding.* —compare PRESS¹, PULL¹; see also PUSHED

push ahead/forward/on *phr v* [I (with)] **1** to continue one's journey or march; ADVANCE **2** to continue with a plan or activity, esp. in a steady determined way: *Despite opposition, they are pushing ahead with their scheme for a new airport.*

push along *phr v* [I] infml to leave: *It's getting late; we must be pushing along.*

push sbdy. around *phr v* [T] infml to treat roughly and unfairly, esp. in order to force obedience; ORDER about

push for sthg. *phr v* [T pass. rare] to demand urgently and forcefully; try to get: *People living near the airport are pushing for new restrictions on night flights.*

push forward *phr v* **1** [T] (push sbdy. forward) often derog to try to attract attention to (someone, esp. oneself) **2** [I] to PUSH ahead

push in *phr v* [I] infml **1** to join a line in front of other people already waiting **2** to interrupt rudely

push off *phr v* [I] **1** [usu. imperative] infml to go away: *What are you doing in my garden? Push off!* **2** to start a journey in a small boat

push on *phr v* [I] to PUSH ahead

push sbdy. ↔ out *phr v* [T often pass.] to dismiss or get rid of, often unfairly

push sbdy./sthg. through (sthg.) *phr v* [T] to cause the acceptance or success of (a person or thing) by means of forceful pressure or effort: *They pushed the legislation through (Parliament) without much discussion.* | *The teacher pushed the student through the examination.*

push sthg. ↔ up *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to increase at a steady rate: *War in the Gulf pushed up the price of oil.* **2** push up the daisies humor to be dead and buried

push² *n* **1** [C] an act of pushing: *They gave the car a push to start it.* **2** [C] a forceful, often planned effort to gain a desired result: *a big advertising push to publicize our new product* **3** [U] infml, usu. apprec the active will to succeed, esp. by forcing oneself and one's wishes on others —see also PUSHY **4** at a push infml, esp. BrE if really necessary: *I can finish the work by next month at a push.* **5** give/get the push sl to dismiss/be dismissed from a job **6** if/when it comes to the push if/when there is a moment of special need: *If it came to the push we could always borrow a bit more money from the bank.* —compare PULL²

push-bike /'pʊʃbaɪk/ *n* BrE infml a bicycle

push-but-ton /'ɪ- ˈɪ- / *adj* [A] operated by a button (push

button) that one presses with the finger: *This machine has a push-button starter.* | *a push-button car radio* | (fig.) *push-button warfare* (=by means of explosives that can be fired over very long distances, not by soldiers fighting with ordinary weapons)

push-cart /'pʊʃkɑ:t||-kɑ:rt/ *n* a small cart pushed by hand, used e.g. by a street trader

push-chair /'pʊʃ-tʃeə/ *BrE* || **stroller** *esp. AmE*— *n* a small chair on wheels for pushing a small child about —see picture at PRAM

pushed /pʊʃt/ *adj* [F] *infml* 1 [(for)] having difficulty in finding enough (money, time, etc.): *I'm always rather pushed for money by the end of the month.* [+to-v] *You'll be pushed to finish the job by this evening.* 2 having no free time; busy: *I'd like to stop for a chat, but I'm rather pushed today.*

push-er /'pʊʃə/ *n* *derog* 1 a person who sells illegal drugs 2 *infml* a PUSHY person 3 *BrE* a small tool for pushing food onto a spoon at meals, used by very young children

Push-kin /'pʊʃkɪn/, **Al-ek-san-dr** /,æliɡ'zɑ:ndə/||-'zæn-/ (1799–1837) a Russian poet considered to be the FOUNDER of modern Russian poetry, whose best-known work is *Eugene Onegin*

push-o-ver /'pʊʃ,əʊvə/ *n* [S] *infml* 1 something that is very easy to do or win: *The exam was a pushover* 2 [(for)] someone who is easily influenced or defeated (by): *Charles is a pushover for girls with blue eyes.*

push-start /'pʊʃ-./ *n* the act of pushing a vehicle to turn the engine and so make the vehicle go —**push-start** *v*: *The battery was flat so we had to push-start the car.*

push-up /'pʊʃ-./ *n* *AmE* for PRESS-UP

push-y /'pʊʃi/ also **push-ing** /'pʊʃɪŋ/— *adj* *usu. derog* showing forceful determination to get things done and make people accept one's wishes; ASSERTIVE: *He's not really pushy enough to succeed in business.* —*ily* *adv* —*iness* *n* [U]

pu-sil-lan-i-mous /,pjʊzɪ'lænɪməs/ *adj* *fml* cowardly and weak; frightened of taking the slightest risk —*ly* *adv* —*mit-y* /,pjʊzɪlə'nɪmɪti/ *n* [U]

puss /pʊs/ *n* *infml* (a name for) a cat: *Here puss, puss, puss!*

Puss in Boots /,pʊʃ-./ a children's story, also a PANTOMIME, about a clever cat who wore BOOTS and who made his owner rich

pus-sy /'pʊsi/ also **pus-sy-cat** /'pʊsi,kæt/— *n* *infml* (a name for) a cat (used esp. by or to children)

pussy ² *n* *taboo sl* 1 the female sex organs 2 *AmE* SISSY

pus-sy-foot /'pʊsɪfʊt/ *v* [I (ABOUT, AROUND)] *infml derog* to be too careful and frightened to express one's opinions, take strong action, etc.: *It's no good pussyfooting around — they should just lock these people up!*

pussy wil-low /'pʊʃ-./ *n* [C;U] (a tree with) bunches of small soft furry white or greyish flowers on stems, often used for decoration

pus-tule /'pʌstju:l||-tʃu:l/ *n* *med* a small raised spot on the skin containing poisonous matter

put ¹ /pʊt/ *v* **put**, *present participle putting* [T] 1 [+obj+adv/prep] to move, set, place, lay, or fix in, on, or to a stated place: *Put the box on the table.* | *Put the chair nearer the fire.* | *You put too much salt in this soup.* | *Put the toy back in its box.* | *Put your hand over your mouth when you cough.* | *Put that newspaper down while I'm talking to you!* | *They were put on a plane and sent back to their own country.* | *He put the children to bed.* | *He put a match to his cigarette.* (=lit it) | *She put her head round the door* (=looked into the room) *and asked if we were coming.* | (fig.) *The prisoner was put on trial/put to death.* (=killed) | (fig.) *Whatever put that idea into your head?* | (fig.) *Their generosity put us to shame.* (=made us feel ashamed) | *I know it was a dishonest thing to do, but put yourself in my place/position.* (=imagine being me) *What would you have done?* 2 [+obj+adv/prep] to cause to be in the stated condition: *He put his books in order.* | *"You've made a mistake."* *"I'll put it right at once."* | *She's put her knowledge of French to good use.* | *His boring lessons always put me to sleep.* | *The unexpected delay put me in a bad mood.* 3 [+obj+adv/prep] to cause (something) to have an effect or influence; APPLY: *They are intending to put pressure on the government to change its mind.* | *Don't try to put the blame on me — it wasn't my fault.* | *It's time we put an end/a stop to these*

ridiculous rumours. | *I'm sure you'll be able to do it if you put your mind to it.* | *They ought to put more money into the business/more effort into their work.* 4 [+obj+adv/prep] to express something in words: *She is — how shall I put it? — not exactly fat, but rather well-built.* | *His ideas were cleverly put.* | *She was trying to put her feelings into words.* | *There is — as today's papers put it — no satisfactory explanation for his outrageous comments.* | *It's a dangerous job, to put it mildly.* (=it is extremely dangerous) 5 [(to, before)] to express officially for judgment or decision: *The lawyer put several questions to the witness.* | *I'll put your suggestion before the management committee.* 6 [+obj+adv/prep] to write down; make (a written mark of some kind): *Put a cross opposite each mistake.* | *"What shall I put at the end of the sentence?"* *"Put a question mark."* 7 [+obj+adv/prep] to make busy; set to regular work: *Put all the boys to work.* | *We're putting extra staff on the job to make sure it gets finished.* 8 [+obj+adv/prep] *tech* to guide or direct (a boat or horse) in a stated direction: *The captain put the ship into port for repairs.* 9 to throw a heavy metal ball (SHOT) as a form of sports competition 10 **Put it there** *infml* (used esp. in coming to an agreement) *Please shake hands with me* 11 **put paid to** *BrE* to ruin; finish completely: *The accident has put paid to his chances of taking part in the race.* —see also **keep/put something on ice** (ICE¹ (5)), **stay put** (STAY¹)

put about *phr v* 1 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **about**) *BrE infml* to spread (bad or false news); CIRCULATE: *They've been putting rumours about.* | *It's being put about that she was secretly married.* 2 [I;T (=put sthg. about)] *tech* a (of a ship) to change direction b to cause (a ship) to change direction 3 **put oneself about** *BrE infml* to be very active, esp. sexually

put sthg. ↔ **across/over** *phr v* [T] to cause (one's ideas, feelings, etc.) to be understood, esp. by listeners; COMMUNICATE: *an inexperienced teacher who doesn't put his ideas/himself across very well*

put sthg. **across** sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml, esp. BrE* to deceive into believing or accepting (something): *You can't put that old excuse across your boss.* (=make him/her believe it)

put sthg. ↔ **aside** *phr v* [T] 1 [(for)] to save (esp. money), for later use or a special purpose: *We have some money put aside for a holiday.* 2 to pay no attention to; DISREGARD: *They have agreed to put aside their differences in the interests of winning the election.*

put sthg. **at** sthg. *phr v* [T] to guess to be (a certain number or amount): *I'd put her age at 33.* | *Official estimates put the damage done by the storm at over \$10 million.*

put sbdy./sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] 1 to remove (something) to the place where it is usually kept: *Put the books away in the cupboard.* 2 to save (money) for later use; **PUT by** 3 *infml* to eat (a lot of food) 4 *euph* to place (someone) in prison or in a hospital for mad people: *People like that ought to be put away!* 5 *bibl* to end one's marriage to (one's wife) by law

put back *phr v* 1 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **back**) to delay: *The fire in the factory has put back production.* | *The meeting has been put back* (=its date has been moved) *to next week.* —compare **PUT forward** (2) 2 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **back**) to cause (a clock or watch) to show an earlier time —compare **PUT forward** (3) 3 [I;T] (=put sthg. ↔ **back**) *tech* a (of a ship) to return: *The ship put back to port.* b to cause (a ship) to return

put sthg. ↔ **by** *phr v* [T] to save (money) for later use: *Try to put a little bit by each week.*

put down *phr v* 1 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) to bring to an end or bring under control; QUELL: *The army put down all opposition.* | *to put down a riot* 2 [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *infml* to make (someone) feel unimportant; HUMILIATE —see also **PUT-DOWN** 3 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) *euph* to kill (an animal), esp. because it is old or ill 4 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) to record in writing: *Let me put down your telephone number.* 5 [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *BrE* to allow to leave a vehicle: *You needn't drive the car up to the house; just put me down here/at the gate.* 6 [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) to pay (an amount) as part of the cost of something, with a promise to pay the rest later —see also **DOWN PAYMENT** 7 [I;T] (=put sthg. ↔ **down**) a (of an aircraft) to land b to land (an aircraft): *The engine failed and the pilot had to put (the plane) down in the sea.*

put sbdy. **down as** sthg. *phr v* [T] to guess (someone) to be or do (something): *I'd put him down as an ex-army man.*

put sbdy. down for sthg. *phr v* [T] to put (someone's name) on a list of people who a want to join (a competition, school, etc.): *She put her name down for the 100 metres race.* or **b** will give (money): *Put me down for £5.*

put sthg. down to sthg. *phr v* [T] to state or think that (something) is caused or explained by (something else): *I put his bad temper down to his recent illness.*

put sthg. ↔ forth *phr v* [T] *fml or lit* 1 to produce and send out: *In spring the bush put forth new leaves.* 2 to **PUT forward** (1)

put sbdy./sthg. ↔ forward *phr v* [T] 1 to offer for consideration; suggest: *They have put forward a plan for reducing the level of traffic.* | *May I put your name forward as a possible chairman of the committee?* 2 to move to an earlier date or time; advance: *The warm weather has put the harvest forward.* | *The meeting has been put forward to this week.* —compare **PUT back** (1) 3 to cause (a clock or watch) to show a later time: *The plane will soon be landing in Bombay — please remember to put your watches forward by five hours.* —compare **PUT back** (2) 4 to bring (someone) to public attention

put in *phr v* 1 [I (at)] (of a ship) to enter a port: *The ship puts in at Singapore and remains there for a day.* 2 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ in**) to make or send (a request or claim); **SUBMIT**: *If the goods were damaged in the post, you can put in a claim to the post office.* | *to put in an application* 3 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ in**) to do (work) or spend (time), esp. for a purpose: *She put in an hour's work on her project.* 4 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ in**) to interrupt by saying: *"Don't forget us," she put in.* 5 [T] (**put sbdy. ↔ in**) to elect (a government) —see also **INPUT**

put in for sthg. *phr v* [T] to make a formal request for; **APPLY for**: *They've put in for a pay rise/a government grant.*

put into sthg. *phr v* [T] (of a ship) to enter (a port): *The boat put into Sydney for supplies.*

put off *phr v* [T] 1 (**put sthg./sbdy. ↔ off**) to move to a later date; delay: [+obj/v-ing] *I'll have to put off my visit/put off going until next month.* | *We've invited them to dinner, but we'll have to put them off because the baby's sick.* 2 (**put sbdy. ↔ off**) to make excuses to (someone) in order to avoid a duty: *I put him off with a promise to pay him next week.* —see also **PUT-OFF** 3 (**put sbdy. off** (sthg.)) to discourage (someone) (from something): *She was trying to make a serious point, but people kept putting her off (her speech) by shouting.* | *Don't talk, it puts her off her game.* | *Their interruptions put him off his stride/stroke.* (=upset him, so that he stopped what he was doing or did it wrong) [+v-ing] *The smell put me off eating for a week!* 4 (**put sbdy. off** (sthg./sbdy.)) to cause (someone) to dislike (someone or something); **REPEL**: *His bad manners/bad breath put me right off (him).* —see also **OFF-PUTTING** 5 (**put sbdy. ↔ off**) to stop and allow (someone) to leave a vehicle or boat

put on *phr v* [T] 1 (**put sthg. ↔ on**) to cover (part of) the body with (esp. clothing); get dressed in: *She put her hat and coat on.* | *He put on his glasses to read the letter.* —opposite **TAKE off** (1); see **DRESS (USAGE)** 2 (**put sthg. ↔ on**) to cause (a light, an electrical apparatus, etc.) to operate by pressing or turning a button, **SWITCH**, etc.: *Put on the light/the radio.* | *Have you put the heating on?* 3 (**put sthg. ↔ on**) (of a person) to increase in (weight) and grow fatter: *I put on six pounds/a lot of weight while I was on holiday.* 4 (**put sthg. on sthg.**) to add (an amount) to the cost or rate of: *a tax increase that will put another 10p on the price of petrol* 5 *BrE* (**put sthg. ↔ on**) to provide in addition to existing services: *So many people wanted to go to the match that another train had to be put on.* 6 (**put sthg. on sthg.**) to state or guess (the price, value, etc.) of: *What price would you put on this fine old silver cup?* 7 (**put sthg. on sthg.**) to risk (something, esp. money) on; **BET on** 8 (**put sthg. ↔ on**) to pretend to have (an opinion, quality, etc.): *She's not really ill; she puts it on to get people's sympathy.* 9 (**put sthg. ↔ on**) to arrange for the performance of (a play, show, etc.); **STAGE** 10 (**put sbdy. on**) *infml*, esp. *AmE* to play a trick on; deceive: *"My dog can sing."* "No, you're putting me on!" —see also **PUT-ON**

put sbdy. onto sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to give information about (someone or something good): *I can't help you myself, but I can put you onto a good lawyer.*

put out *phr v* 1 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ out**) to cause to stop burning: *It took them six hours to put the fire out.* | *She put out the light.* 2 [T] (**put sbdy. out**) a to upset or annoy: *She was so put out by his rudeness that she didn't*

know what to say. b to cause inconvenience to: *Will it put you out if I bring another guest?* | *She never puts herself out* (=takes trouble) *to help people.* 3 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ out**) to produce, broadcast, or print; **ISSUE**: *The government has put out a statement denying these rumours.* 4 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ out**) to put (part of the body) out of place; **DISLOCATE**: *I can't play tennis today, I've put my shoulder out.* 5 [I (to)] to begin sailing; move away from the shore or coast: *We put out to sea at high tide.* 6 [T] (**put sbdy. out**) (esp. of a doctor, etc.) to make (someone) unconscious 7 [I (for)] *AmE sl* (of a woman) to be willing to have sex with someone 8 [T] (**put sbdy. out**) (in **BASEBALL** and **CRICKET**) to prevent (a player) from scoring (**SCORE**²) by removing him/her from play

put sthg. ↔ over *phr v* [T] to **PUT across**: *He can't put his ideas over clearly enough.*

put sthg. over on sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to deceive into believing or accepting (something worthless): *He tried to put one over on me* (=cheat me) *by selling me a car that didn't work.*

put through *phr v* [T] 1 (**put sbdy./sthg. through**) a to connect (a telephone caller) by telephone: *If she's not in, can you put me through to her secretary?* b to make (a telephone call): *I have to put through a call to our Madrid office.* 2 (**put sthg. ↔ through**) to complete (a piece of work or business) successfully: *Production will start up again when these changes have been put through.* 3 **put someone through it/through the mill** *infml* to give someone a severe test of courage or ability

put sbdy./sthg. to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to ask (a question) of or make (an offer) to: *I'd like to put a question to the speaker.* 2 to test (something or someone) by (the stated means): *Let's put the matter to a vote/to a full discussion.* 3 **put it to someone (that)** to suggest; invite someone to consider (that): *I put it to you that you haven't told us the full facts.* —see also **be hard put (to it) to** (**HARD**² (5))

put sbdy./sthg. ↔ together *phr v* [T] 1 to form by combining parts or members: *to put a team together* | *to put together a proposal* 2 [*usu. pass.*] to combine: *His share was more than all the others' put together.*

put up *phr v* 1 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ up**) to build or raise into position: *Have you put up the tent?* | *They're putting up a new office block.* 2 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ up**) to fix (esp. a notice) in a public place where people can see it: *She put up the exam results.* —opposite **take down** 3 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ up**) to increase in amount: *They've put the price up.* 4 a [T] (**put sbdy. ↔ up**) to provide food and lodging for: *I'm afraid I can't put you up; you'll have to go to a hotel.* b [I+adv/prep] esp. *BrE* to get food and lodging; stay: *We'll put up at a hotel/with friends for the night.* 5 [T] (**put up sthg.**) to show, or give in a fight or competition: *They put up a lot of resistance.* | *What a coward; he didn't put up much of a fight!* 6 [T] (**put sthg. up**) to offer for sale: *She's putting her house up (for sale).* 7 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ up**) to supply or lend (money needed): *The plans for the new sports centre are all prepared, but someone will have to put up £50,000.* 8 [T] (**put sbdy. ↔ up**) to suggest as being a suitable person for a job, etc.: *Will you put Tom up for the cricket club?* (=suggest him as a member) 9 [T] (**put sthg. ↔ up**) *tech* to make (a hunted animal or bird) leave a hiding place —see also **put someone's back up** (**BACK**¹)

put upon sbdy. *phr v* [T] esp. *BrE* to be a cause of inconvenience to: *You're sure I won't be putting upon you if I stay to dinner?* —see also **PUT-UPON**

put sbdy. up to sthg. *phr v* [T] to give the idea of (doing esp. something bad): *It's not like David to cause trouble: someone must have put him up to it.*

put up with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *pass. rare*] *infml* to suffer (something annoying or unpleasant) without complaining: *I can't put up with your rudeness any more; leave the room.* | *That woman has a lot to put up with.* (=has many troubles)

put² n tech the right to sell a certain quantity of something (e.g. **SHARES**¹ (2)) at a fixed price within a given time —compare **call**² ()

pu-ta-tive /'pjʊtətɪv/ *adj* [A] *fml* generally accepted or supposed to be or to become: *the putative father of her child*

put-down /'pʊt-./ *n infml* words, esp. as an answer, that make someone feel unimportant or hurt; **SNUB** —see also **PUT down** (2)

put-off /'pʊt-./ *n infml*, esp. *AmE* a pretended reason for not doing something; excuse —see also **PUT off**

- put-on** /'pʊt.ən/ *n* *AmE infml* something not intended seriously or sincerely —see also **PUT ON**
- put op-tion** /'pʊt.ən/ *n* the right to sell a **ASSET** at an agreed price by a particular date
- pu-tre-fac-tion** /'pjʊtrɪfækʃən/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* 1 the process of becoming putrid 2 putrid matter
- pu-tre-fy** /'pjʊtrɪfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] to decay; (cause to) become putrid
- pu-tres-cent** /'pjʊtrɪsənt/ *adj fml or tech* beginning to decay and smell bad: *putrescent fish* —**-cence** *n* [U]
- pu-trid** /'pjʊtrɪd/ *adj* 1 (esp. of an animal or plant substance) very decayed and bad-smelling 2 *infml* worthless; very much disliked: *That play last night was really putrid!*
- putsch** /putʃ/ *n* a sudden secretly planned attempt to remove a government by force
- putt** /pat/ *v* [I;T] (in the game of **GOLF** or **PUTTING**) to strike (the ball) gently along the ground towards or into the hole —**putt** *n*
- put-ter**¹ /'putər/ *n* [(of)] a person who puts something
- putt-er**² /'patər/ *n* (in the game of **GOLF**) 1 a **GOLF CLUB** used in putting (**PUTT**) the ball —see picture at **GOLF** 2 a person who **PUTTS**: *an expert putter*
- put-ter**³ /'patər/ *n, v* *AmE* for **POTTER**²
- put-ting** /'pʌtɪŋ/ *n* [U] a simple game of **GOLF** played on a **PUTTING GREEN** (2) in public parks and seaside towns. Putting is popular with British people and is played esp. on holiday.
- putting green** /'pʌtɪŋ.ɡrɪn/ *n* 1 one of the smooth grassy areas on a **GOLF** course containing the hole where the ball must be played 2 a smooth grassy area in a public park etc. with a number of holes where the game of putting is played
- Putt-nam** /'pʌtnəm/, David (1941–) an English film producer known esp. for the films *Chariots of Fire* and *The Killing Fields*
- put-ty** /'pʌti/ *n* [U] a soft pale oily substance, used esp. in fixing glass to window frames: *He was like putty in her hands.* (=very easily influenced by her)
- put-up job** /'pʊt.ʌp.dʒɒb/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* something dishonestly arranged in advance
- put-up-on** /'pʊt.ʌp.ən/ *adj* [F] (of a person) used for someone else's advantage: *The way his neighbour always borrows things from him makes him feel put-upon.* —see also **PUT UPON**
- puz-zle**¹ /'pʌzəl/ *v* 1 [T *often pass.*] to make (someone) feel helpless and uncertain in the effort to explain or understand something: *Her illness has puzzled all the doctors.* | *What puzzles me is why they didn't take her advice.* | *a puzzling situation* | *You look puzzled.* 2 [I+prep, esp. about, over, as to] to make a great effort of the mind in order to find the answer to a question: *I've been puzzling over all the figures, trying to find what happened to the missing money.*
- puzzle** sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to find the answer to (a problem) by thinking hard: *I'm trying to puzzle out the meaning of his words.* [+wh-] *We finally puzzled out how to open the box.*
- puzzle**² *n* 1 (often in comb.) a game, toy, or apparatus in which parts must be fitted together correctly, intended to amuse or exercise the mind: *a crossword puzzle* | *a book of puzzles* —see also **JIGSAW** 2 [*usu. sing.*] something that one cannot understand or explain: *We can't find what happened to that money — it's a bit of a puzzle.*
- puz-zle-ment** /'pʌzəl.mənt/ *n* [U] the state of being puzzled: *He gazed at the strange writing in puzzlement.*
- puz-zler** /'pʌzlər/ *n* *infml* a person or thing that puzzles one: *That last question was a real puzzler.*
- PVC** /'pi:vɪs/ *n* [U] a type of plastic: *This raincoat is (made of) PVC.*
- pw** *written abbrev. for:* per week: *The jobholder may earn up to £200 pw.*
- P.W.** /'pi: 'dʌbəl.ju: / *abbrev. for:* policewoman
- PWA** /'pi: 'dʌbəl.ju: 'eɪ/ *abbrev. for:* person with AIDS
- PWR** /'pi: 'dʌbəl.ju: 'ɑ: / *abbrev. for:* pressurized water reactor; a type of **NUCLEAR REACTOR**
- PX** /'pi: 'eks/ also **post exchange** *fml* — *n* **PXs** /'pi: 'eksɪz/ *tdmk* a shop at a US military base —compare **NAAFI**
- Pyg-ma-li-on** /'pɪg'meɪliən/ a famous play by George Bernard Shaw in which a **COCKNEY** woman, Eliza Doolittle, is taught to speak and behave in an **UPPER-CLASS** way by Professor Higgins. *Pygmalion* was made into a popular **MUSICAL** called *My Fair Lady*
- pyg-my, pigmy** /'pɪgmɪ/ *n* 1 (*usu. cap.*) a member of a race of very small people in Africa 2 a very small person or animal: *a pygmy elephant* 3 *derog* a person with very little skill or importance: *a political pygmy*
- py-ja-mas** /pə'dʒɑ:məz/ || -'dʒæ-, -'dʒɑ:-/ also **jammies** *BrE* || **pajamas**, **Pj's** *AmE* *n* [P] 1 a soft loose-fitting pair of trousers and top worn in bed, esp. by men 2 loose trousers tied round the waist, worn by Muslim men and women —see **PAIR (USAGE)** —**pyjama** *adj* [A]: *Where are my pyjama trousers?*
- py-lon** /'paɪlən/ || -lə:n, -lən/ *n* 1 a tall structure of steel bars used for supporting wires that carry electricity over land 2 a high tower or post used as a guiding mark for aircraft 3 *tech* a gateway to an ancient Egyptian temple
- PYO** *written abbrev. for:* Pick Your Own; (a sign put up at farms where people can pick their own fruit and vegetables. Food picked in this way is *usu.* cheaper than in the shops.)
- py-or-rhoe-a, -rhea** /,paɪə'rɪzə/ *n* [U] a disease of the flesh round the teeth, which may cause them to become loose
- pyr-a-mid** /'pɪrəmid/ *n* 1 (in **GEOMETRY**) a solid figure with a flat *usu.* square base and straight flat three-angled sides that slope upwards to meet at a point 2 (*often cap.*) a very large stone structure in this shape, used in ancient Egypt as the burial place of an important person, e.g. a king 3 a building or pile of objects in this shape: *A pyramid of stones marked the spot.*

the Pyramids



Pyr-a-mids /'pɪrəmidz/ [*the*] the pyramids in Egypt where the kings of Egypt were buried. Many stories are told of the opening of the pyramids, often by British **ARCHAEOLOGISTS**, who found many important and valuable things inside.

pyramid sell-ing /'pɪrəmidz.ɪŋ/ *n* [U] *tech* an unfair system by which a person buys a right to sell a company's goods and then sells part of that right to other people

Pyr-a-mus and This-be /,pɪrəməs ənd 'θɪzbi/ in **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**, a pair of lovers who killed themselves because each thought the other person was dead

pyre /paɪər/ *n* a high mass of wood for the ceremonial burning of a dead body: *a funeral pyre*

Pyr-e-nees /,pɪrə'nɪz/ || 'pɪrənɪz/ [*the* +P] a mountain range between France and Spain

Py-rex /'paɪəreks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of glass that does not crack in great heat, and so is used in making cooking containers: *a Pyrex bowl*

py-ri-tes /paɪ'rɪtɪz/ || pə-/ *n* [U] (*usu. in comb.*) a natural compound of **SULPHUR** with a metal, esp. iron (**iron pyrites**), found in the earth and having a shiny yellow appearance, like gold

py-ro-ma-ni-a /,paɪərəʊ'meɪniə/ || -rə-/ *n* [U] *tech* an illness of the mind causing an uncontrollable desire to start fires

py-ro-ma-ni-ac /,paɪərəʊ'meɪniæk/ || -rə-/ *n* *tech* a person suffering from pyromania

py-ro-tech-nics /,paɪərəʊ'teknɪks/ || -rə-/ *n* 1 [U] *tech* the making of bright explosive lights, as used for amusement (**FIREWORKS**) or as signals for ships, aircraft, etc. 2 [P] *fml or tech* a public show of **FIREWORKS** 3 [P] a splendid show of skill in words, music, etc.: *the pianist's pyrotechnics in the scherzo* —**pyrotechnic** *adj*

Pyr-rhic vic-to-ry /ˌpɪrɪk ˈvɪktəri/ *n* a victory in which the winner suffers such great losses that the victory is worthless (from Pyrrhus, whose army suffered heavy losses in defeating the Romans)

Py-thag-o-ras /paɪˈθæɡərəs||pə-/ (582?–?507 BC) a Greek thinker and MATHEMATICIAN, known for **Pythagoras’s Theorem**, a way of finding the length of the third side of a TRIANGLE with one angle of 90°

py-thon /ˈpaɪθən||-θɔːn, -θən/ *n* **pythons** *or* **python** a large non-poisonous tropical snake that kills animals for food

by winding round them and crushing them

Py-thon-esque /ˌpaɪθənˈesk◁/ *adj* humorous in a silly, strange, and SURREAL way (from the television COMEDY programme *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*) —see also MONTY PYTHON

pyx /pɪks/ *n tech* a container in which the holy bread used for the Christian service of COMMUNION is kept, esp. a small round metal dish used for carrying Communion to the sick



Q

Q /kjuː/ **Q's, q's or Qs, qs** the 17th letter of the English alphabet

Qad-daf-i, Qadhafi /gə'dæfi || -'dɑː-/ see GADDAFI

Qa-tar /kʌ'tɑːr || 'kɑːtər/ a country in E Arabia, whose economic life is based on oil; capital Doha; population 1,220,000 (1989)

QC /,kjuː 'sɪz/ *n* Queen's Counsel; (the title given, while a queen is ruling, to) a British BARRISTER (=lawyer) of high rank: *Sir John is a leading QC.* | *Sir John Smithers, QC* —compare KC

QED /,kjuː ɪz 'diː/ *abbrev. for:* (Lat) quod erat demonstrandum; there is the proof of my argument

QE2 /,kwjuː ɪz 'tuː/ [*the*] a large passenger ship owned by the Cunard company operating between Southampton and New York, and also taking people on sea journeys all over the world, for pleasure. The QE2 is considered to be a very comfortable and expensive way of travelling.

QPR /,kjuː piː 'ɑːr/ *abbrev. for* QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS

qr *written abbrev. for:* quarter

qt *written abbrev. for:* QUART

q.t. /,kjuː 'tiː/ *n* on the q.t. *infml* secret; secretly: *Don't say I told you; it's supposed to be on the q.t.*

Q-tip /'kjuː tɪp/ *n* AmE *tdmk* COTTON BUD

qu *written abbrev. for:* question

qua /kweɪ, kwaː || kwaː/ *prep fml* when thought of particularly in the character of; by itself: *Money, qua money, cannot provide happiness.*

Quaa-lude /'kwɛrlʊd/ also **lude**— *n* *tdmk* a drug used to help people sleep

quack¹ /kwæk/ *v* [I] to make the sound that ducks make — **quack** *n*

quack² *n* *infml* 1 *derog* a person dishonestly claiming to have medical knowledge or skills: *a quack doctor* — compare CHARLATAN 2 *esp. BrE* a doctor

quack-er-y /'kwækəri/ *n* [U] *derog* the behaviour or methods of a QUACK² (1)

quad /kwɒd || kwɑːd/ *n* *infml* 1 a square open place with buildings round it, esp. in a school or college 2 a QUADRUPLET

Quad-ra-ges-i-ma /,kwɒdrə'dʒesɪmə ||, kwaː-/ *n* [U] the first Sunday in LENT (from Latin quadraginta, meaning 40, since Quadragesima is about 40 days before Easter)

quad-ran-gle /'kwɒdræŋəl || 'kwaː-/ *n* 1 *tech* a QUADRILATERAL, such as a square 2 *fml* for QUAD (1)

quad-ran-gu-lar /kwɒ'dræŋgʊlə || 'kwaː-/ *adj* having the shape of a quadrangle

quad-rant /'kwɒdrənt || 'kwaː-/ *n* 1 a quarter of a circle 2 an instrument for measuring angles, when sailing or when looking at the stars

quad-ra-phon-ic /,kwɒdrə'fɒnɪk ||, kwaːdrə'fɑː-/ *adj* using a system of sound recording, broadcasting, or receiving in which sound comes from four different places — compare MONO¹, STEREO²

quad-rat-ic e-qua-tion /kwɒ'drætɪk ɪ'kwɛɪʒən || kwaː-/ *n* *tech* an EQUATION, such as $ax^2 + bx + c = y$, which includes numbers or quantities multiplied by themselves once

quad-ri-lat-er-al /,kwɒdrɪ'lætərəl ||, kwaː-/ *n, adj* (a flat figure) with four straight sides

qua-drille /kwə'drɪl || kwaː-/ *n* a dance, popular esp. formerly, in which the dancers form a square

qua-dril-lion /kwɒ'drɪljən || kwaː-/ *n, determiner, pron* **quad-rillion or quadrillions** 1 *BrE* the number one followed by 24 zeros; 10^{24} 2 *AmE* the number one followed by 15 zeros; 10^{15}

quad-ru-ped /'kwɒdrɪpəd || 'kwaː-/ *n* *tech* a four-legged animal —compare BIPED

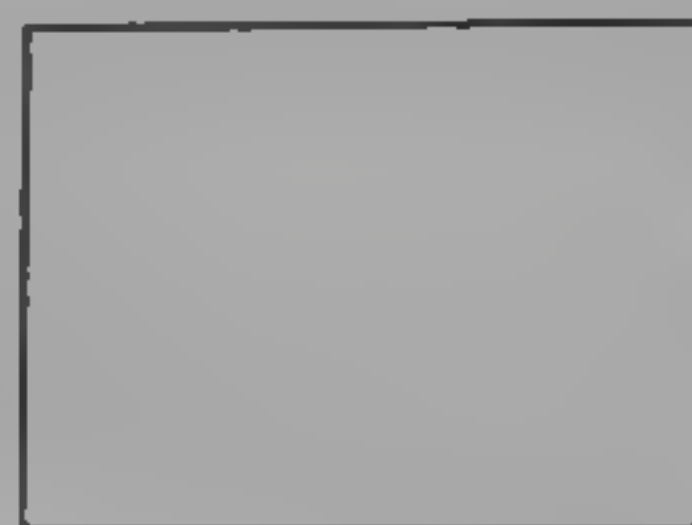
quad-ru-ple¹ /'kwɒdrʊpəl, kwɒ'druː- || kwaː'druː-/ *v* 1 [T] to multiply (a number or amount) by four 2 [I] to become four times as great: *Profits have quadrupled.*

quadruple² *adj, predeterminer fml* four times as big or many: *quadruple the amount of profit* —**ply** *adv*

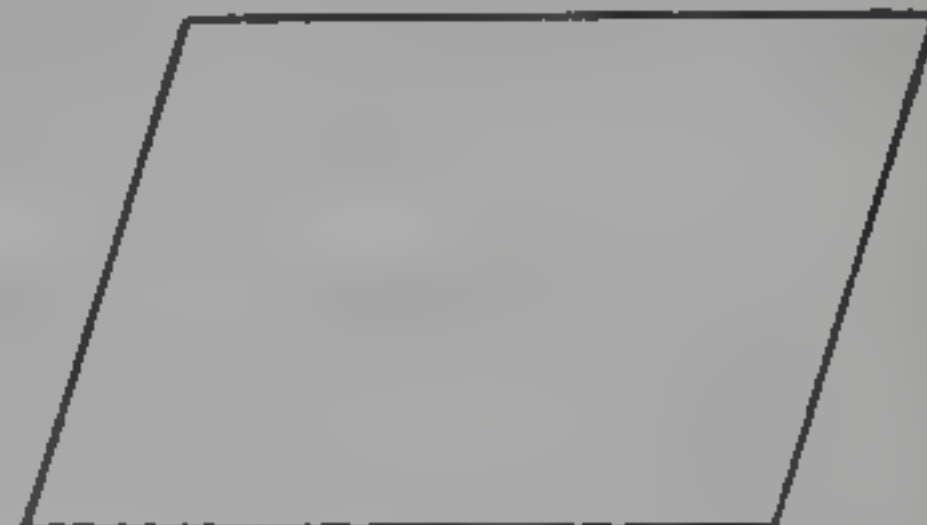
quadrilaterals



square



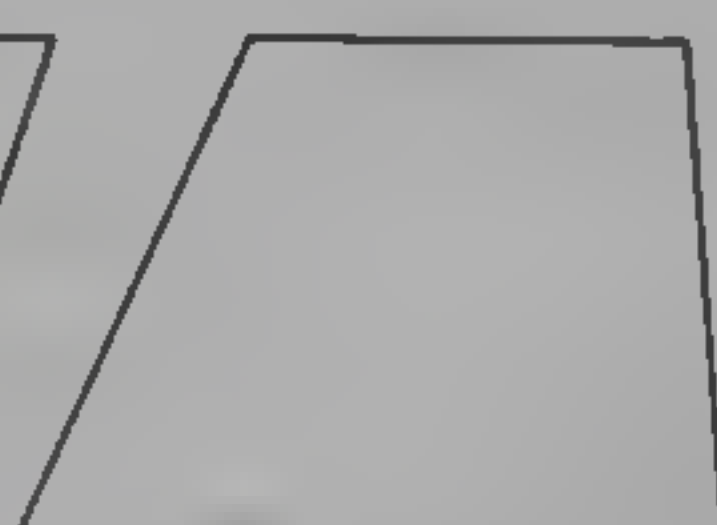
rectangle



parallelogram or rhomboid



rhombus



trapezium BrE/
trapezoid AmE



trapezoid BrE/
trapezium AmE

quad-ru-plet /'kwɒdrʊplɪt || kwaː'druːp-/ also **quad** *infml*— *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of four children born of the same mother at the same time

quaff /kwɒf, kwaːf || kwaːf, kwæf/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* to drink deeply

quag-mire /'kwægmaɪə, 'kwɒg- || 'kwæg-/ *n* an area of soft wet ground: *After the rain, the football pitch is a real quagmire.* | (fig.) *They'd allowed themselves to get bogged down in a quagmire of unnecessary details.*

quail¹ /kweɪl/ *n* **quail or quails** [C;U] (the meat of) a small bird like the PARTRIDGE, expensive, and eaten esp. by rich people. **Quail's** eggs are also considered a LUXURY food.

quail² *v* [I (with, at)] *lit or fml* to be afraid; tremble: *I quailed (with fear) at the thought of telling her the bad news.*

quaint /kweɪnt/ *adj* unusual and attractive, esp. in an old-fashioned way: *a quaint old village custom* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

quake¹ /kweɪk/ *v* [I (with, at)] to shake or tremble, esp. in a violent way and usu. because of fear: *He was quaking in his boots at the thought.*

quake² *n* *infml* for EARTHQUAKE

Qua-ker /'kweɪkə/ *n, adj* (a member) of a Christian religious group called the Society of Friends. Quakers believe in "inner light", have no ministers or organized service, and often spend their religious services (called **Meetings**) in silence. Quakers are known for their opposition to violence and war, and are active in helping other people and in education. —see also FRIEND

qual-i-fi-ca-tion /,kwɒlɪfɪ'keɪʃən ||, kwaː-/ *n* 1 [C often pl.] a proof that one has passed an examination and gained a certain level of knowledge or skill: *to gain a medical qualification* | *academic qualifications* 2 [C (for)] an ability, quality, or record of experience that makes a person suitable for a particular job or position: *Previous experience is not an essential qualification for this job.* [+to-v] *She has all the right qualifications to be a good manager.* 3 [C] something that limits the force of a statement: *I agree, with certain qualifications.* [+that] *We support the plan, with the qualification that it should be done more cheaply.* 4 [U] the act of qualifying

qual-i-fied /'kwɒlɪfaɪd || 'kwaː-/ *adj* 1 having suitable knowledge or qualifications, esp. for a job: *a highly qualified engineer* [+to-v] *He's not qualified to teach young children.* 2 limited; not complete: *qualified agreement*

qual-i-fi-er /'kwɒlɪfaɪə || 'kwaː-/ *n* 1 someone who has qualified or had to qualify, esp. by passing a test, winning a match, etc. 2 *tech* (in grammar) a word or phrase, esp. an adjective or adverb, which limits the meaning of another word or phrase

qual-i-fy /'kwɒlɪfaɪ || 'kwaː-/ *v* 1 [I;T (as, for)] to (cause to) reach a necessary standard, e.g. of knowledge, ability, or performance, or get a QUALIFICATION: *She qualified as a doctor this year.* | *Will our team qualify for the second round of the competition?* | *Her teaching experience qualifies her admirably for the job.* | *People on low incomes may qualify for a special heating allowance.* [+obj+to-v] *Spending a week in Russia doesn't qualify you to talk about it as an expert.* | *a qualifying match* (=the team/person that wins it will be allowed to go on to the next stage of the

competition) **2** [T] to limit the force or meaning of (something stated); *MODIFY: I'd like to qualify my last statement—it was too strong.* | (tech) *Adjectives qualify nouns.*

qual-i-ta-tive /'kwɒlɪtətɪv/ || 'kwɑːlɪteɪ-/ *adj* of or about quality: *a qualitative judgment* —compare **QUANTITATIVE** —
~*ly adv*

qual-i-ty /'kwɒlɪti/ || 'kwɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] **a** the degree to which something is excellent; standard of goodness: *material of low/poor quality* | *The quality of the service here has improved a lot.* | *high-quality goods* **b** a high standard: *It is difficult to recruit teachers of quality.* | *an actor of real quality* (=a very good actor) **2** [C] something typical of a person or thing; **CHARACTERISTIC: Sympathy is his best quality. | *She shows qualities of leadership.* | *This music has a rather sinister quality.***

quality as-sur-ance /'... ..-/ *n* [U] management of the quality of production according to a system

quality con-trol /'... ..-/ *n* [U] the practice of checking examples of goods produced to make sure that the quality of all the goods is what it should be

quality of life /'... ..-/ *n* [U] the level of health, comfort, and pleasure in a (person's) life: *A government which says it is concerned about the quality of life cannot then ignore the weakest members of our society.* | *Our quality of life has already been affected by this latest nuclear disaster.*

quality pa-per /'... ..-/ *n* a British daily or Sunday newspaper aimed at educated readers. Quality papers are sometimes called the serious papers. They contain detailed news articles, **FEATURES**, and **REVIEWS** written in a serious style. —compare **POPULAR PRESS**, **TABLOID** and see also extra information on page 0000

quality time /'... ..-/ *n* [U] time spent with e.g. one's children when one is relaxed and has got nothing else to do. This is supposed to be good for parent and child, esp. because the parent is at work for most of the day: *She took comfort in the idea that her uninterrupted hour with the children at bedtime was quality time.*

qualm /kwɑːm/ || kwɑːm, kwɑːlm/ *n* [(**about**) often *pl.*] an uncomfortable feeling of uncertainty, esp. as to whether something is right: *He had no qualms about cheating the tax inspector.*

quan-da-ry /'kwɒndəri/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *n* [(**about**, **over**)] a feeling of not knowing what to do: *I was in a quandary about whether to go.*

quan-go /'kwæŋgəʊ/ *n* -**gos** *usu. derog* (in Britain) an independent body, such as the Race Relations Board, set up by the government but having its own separate legal powers in a particular area of activity (from quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization)

Quant /kwɒnt/ || kwɑːnt/, **Mary** (1934–) an English fashion **DESIGNER**, popular in the 1960s, who is best known for her **GEOMETRIC** clothes and the **MINI SKIRT**

quan-ta /'kwɒntə/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *pl.* of **QUANTUM**

quan-ti-fi-er /'kwɒntɪfaɪə/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *n* *tech* (in grammar) a word or phrase that is used with a noun to show quantity, such as **much**, **few**, and **a lot of**

quan-ti-fy /'kwɒntɪfaɪ/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *v* [T] *fml* to measure (an amount or quantity): *It is difficult to quantify the value of space exploration.* —**fiable** *adj* —**fication** /'kwɒntɪfɪ-'keɪʃən/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *n* [U]

quan-ti-ta-tive /'kwɒntɪtətɪv/ || 'kwɑːntɪteɪ-/ *adj* of or about quantity: *a quantitative difference* —compare **QUALITATIVE** —
~*ly adv*

quan-ti-ty /'kwɒntɪti/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of being measurable; amount: *It was a bad year for new films, in terms of both quantity and quality.* (=there were not many, and they were not very good) **2** [C (**of**)] also **quantities** *pl.* — **a** an amount or number: *A large/vast quantity of beer was sold.* | *expensive cars that are manufactured in small quantities* **b** *old-fash* a large amount or number: *Quantities of food were spread out on the table.* —see also **UNKNOWN QUANTITY**

quantity sur-vey-or /'... ..-/ *n* a person who calculates the amount of materials needed for a future building, and what they will cost

Quan-tocks /'kwɒntəks/ || 'kwɑːntəks/ also **Quantock Hills** /'... ..-/ — [the+P] a range of hills in Somerset, SW England

quan-tum /'kwɒntəm/ || 'kwɑːn-/ *n* -**ta** /tə/ *tech* (esp. in **PHYSICS**) a fixed amount which varies from the next pos-

sible smaller or larger amount by a specific degree

quantum leap /'... ..-/ *n* a very large and important advance or improvement: *The concept of sixth generation computers represents a quantum leap in communications systems.*

quantum me-chan-ics /'... ..-/ [P+*sing./pl.v*] the study of **ELEMENTARY PARTICLES**, which behave according to the rules of quantum theory but unlike larger objects which obey the laws of ordinary **PHYSICS**

quantum the-o-ry /'... ..-/ *n* [(the) U] a 20th century development in **PHYSICS** which says that **ENERGY** and mass, esp. at the atomic level and smaller, show properties in quantum divisions only

quar-an-tine¹ /'kwɒrəntɪn/ || 'kwɑː-/ *n* [S; (**in**) U] a period of time when a person or animal that may be carrying disease is kept separate from others so that the disease cannot spread: *Animals entering Britain from abroad are put in quarantine for six months.*

quarantine² *v* [T often *pass.*] to put in quarantine

quark /kwɑːk, kwɔːk/ || kwɔːrk, kwɑːrk/ *n* **1** *tech* an extremely small piece of matter that forms the substances of which atoms are made **2** *BrE* a low fat cream cheese

quar-rel¹ /'kwɒrəl/ || 'kwɑː-, 'kwɑː-/ *n* [(**with**)] **1** an angry argument, often about something not very important: *I got involved in a quarrel about the price.* | *He seems to enjoy picking* (=causing) *quarrels with people.* **2** *have no quarrel with* to have no cause for or point of disagreement with: *I have no quarrel with what the minister says.*

quarrel² *v* -**ll** -*BrE* || -**l** -*AmE* [I (**about**, **over**, **with**)] to have a quarrel: *They were quarrelling furiously (with each other) about whose turn it was to cook the dinner.*

▷ **USAGE** Compare **quarrel** and **argue**. Both words can mean “to have an unpleasant disagreement in which people feel angry”: *Jack and Jill argued/quarrelled about who should get the money, and stopped speaking to each other.* However you can also **argue** with someone (=have a discussion in which there are differences of opinion) without feeling angry: *Jill and I often have a drink together and argue about modern art.* ◁

quarrel with sthg. *phr v* [T] to disagree with or complain about: *I don't quarrel with what you say, but with how you say it.*

quar-rel-some /'kwɒrəlsəm/ || 'kwɑː-, 'kwɑː-/ *adj* *derog* (of a person) likely to quarrel; often arguing — ~**ness** *n* [U]

quar-ry¹ /'kwɒri/ || 'kwɑː-, 'kwɑː-/ *n* a place from which stone, sand, etc., are dug out —compare **MINE**³ (1)

quarry² *v* [T (**from**)] to dig out (stone, sand, etc.) from a quarry

quarry³ *n* [S] the person or animal that one is hunting or chasing: *The policeman followed his quarry into the park to arrest him.*

quart /kwɔːt/ || kwɑːrt/ *n* **1** a unit of liquid and dry measure: *a quart of milk* —see **TABLE 2** **2** *put a quart into a pint pot* *BrE infml* [*usu. in negatives*] to do something impossible

quar-ter¹ /'kwɔːtə/ || 'kwɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C] a fourth part of a whole; ¼; *a quarter of a mile* | *a mile and a quarter* | *A quarter* (=¼ of a **POUND**) *of sweets, please.* | *a quarter of a million* (=250,000) | *The currency has been reduced to a quarter of its former value.* **2** [C] 15 minutes before or after the hour: *It's a quarter past ten/(AmE) after ten.* (=10.15) | *a quarter to ten/(AmE) of ten* (=9.45) | *in three quarters of an hour* (=45 minutes) | *This clock strikes the quarters.* **3** [C] a period of three months, used esp. for making payments: *I pay my rent by the quarter.* | *The company's profits rose by 11 per cent in the first quarter.* —see also **QUARTERLY**¹ **4** [C] (in the US and Canada) a coin worth 25 cents (=¼ of a dollar) **5** *AmE* a period of 10 to 12 weeks into which the teaching year is divided in some American colleges and universities: *What classes are you taking fall quarter?* **6** any of the four equal periods of time into which some sports matches are divided: *At the end of the first quarter, the Lakers lead 26-22.* **7** [C often *pl.*] a place or person from which something comes or may be expected: *Help is arriving from all quarters.* | *The best advice came from a most unexpected quarter.* | *This decision is seen in some quarters* (=by some people) *as a change of policy.* **8** [C] a part of a town lived in or worked in by the stated people: *the student quarter* | *the Arab quarter* **9** [C] a unit of weight

—see TABLE 2 **10** [U *usu. in negatives*] *fml* the giving of life to a defeated enemy; **MERCY**: *They are ferocious fighters, who neither give nor expect any quarter.* **11** [C] (*often in comb.*) a piece of meat from a large animal, including a leg: *a quarter of beef* **12** [C] the period twice a month when the moon shows a quarter of its surface: *In the first week the moon is in its first quarter, in the third it is in its last quarter.* —see also **QUARTERS**, **at close quarters** (**CLOSE**²)

quarter² *v* [T] **1** to cut or divide into four parts **2** [(on)] to provide lodgings for (esp. soldiers): *He quartered his men on families in the town.*

quar-ter-back /'kwɔ:təbæk||'kwɔ:rtər-/ *n* (in **FOOTBALL**²) the player who decides how the team will play and who passes the ball to the other players

quarter day /'..-/ *n* *BrE* a day which officially begins a three-month period of the year, and on which payments are made

quar-ter-deck /'kwɔ:tədək||'kwɔ:rtər-/ *n* [*the*] *tech* part of the highest level of a ship, used only by officers

quar-ter-fi-nal /,kwɔ:tə'faɪn||,kwɔ:rtər-/ *n* any of four matches in a competition, whose winners will play in the two **SEMIFINALS**

quarter horse /'..-/ *n* (in the US) a strong horse bred (**BREED**¹) to run short races, usu. races of a quarter of a mile

quar-ter-ly¹ /'kwɔ:təli||'kwɔ:rtər-/ *adj, adv* (happening, appearing, etc.) four times a year: *quarterly payments* | *a quarterly newsletter*

quarterly² *n* a magazine appearing four times a year

quar-ter-mas-ter /'kwɔ:tə,mɑ:stə^r||'kwɔ:rtər,mæ-/ *n* a military officer in charge of provisions

quarter note /'..-/ *n* *AmE* for **CROTCHET** —see picture at **NOTATION**

quar-ters /'kwɔ:təz||'kwɔ:rtəz/ *n* [P] lodgings: *Married quarters are houses where soldiers live with their families.*

quarter ses-sions /'..-/ also **sessions**—*n* [P] a law court held every three months formerly in England

quar-ter-staff /'kwɔ:təstɑ:f||'kwɔ:rtəstæf/ *n* -**staves** or -**staves** /steɪvz/ a long wooden pole used as a weapon, esp. in former times

quar-tet, -**tette** /kwɔ:'tɛt||kwɔ:r-/ *n* *esp. BrE* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] four singers or musicians performing together: *A quartet is/are playing tonight.* **2** a piece of music for four performers —compare **QUINTET**, **TRIO**

quar-to /'kwɔ:təʊ||'kwɔ:r-/ *n* -**tos** *tech* the (size of) paper produced by folding a large sheet of paper twice so as to give four sheets or eight pages in all: *In most libraries, quarto books are kept separately because they are so big.* —compare **FOLIO** (2), **OCTAVO**

quartz /kwɔ:ts||kwɔ:rts/ *n* [U] a hard mineral substance, now used in making very exact watches and clocks

qua-sar /'kweɪzɑ:^r/ *n* *tech* a very bright very distant object like a star, whose exact nature is unknown —compare **PULSAR**

quash /kwɒʃ||kwɑ:f, kwɔ:ʃ/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to officially refuse to accept (something already decided): *The high court judge quashed the decision of the lower court.* **2** to bring to an end by force; **CRUSH**: *The army quashed the rebellion.*

quasi- see **WORD FORMATION**

Qua-si-mo-do /,kwɑ:zɪ'məʊdəʊ/ a character in Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, an ugly **HUNCHBACK** whose job is to ring the bells of Notre Dame (a **CATHEDRAL** in Paris)

quat-er-cen-te-na-ry /,kwætəsən'tɪznəri||,kwɑ:tərsən'te-/ *n* the day or year exactly 400 years after a particular event: *1964 was the quatercentenary of Shakespeare's birth.*

quat-rain /'kwɒtreɪn||'kwɑ:-/ *n* a group of four lines which is a whole poem, or part of a poem

qua-ver¹ /'kweɪvə^r/ *v* **1** [I] (of a voice or music) to shake; **TREMBLE** **2** [T] to say in a shaky voice —*~y adj*: *a quav-ery voice*

quaver² *n* **1** a shaking in the voice **2** *BrE* || **eighth note** *AmE*— a musical note with a time value half as long as a **CROTCHET** —see picture at **NOTATION**

quay /ki:/ *n* a place where boats can stop to load and un-

load, usu. built of stone and usu. forming part of a **HARBOUR**

Quayle /kweɪl/, **John Dan-forth** /dʒɒn 'dænfəθ||dʒɑ:n 'dænfəθ/ (**Dan**) (1947–) **VICE-PRESIDENT** of the US since 1989 under President George Bush. Many Americans think that Quayle does not really have enough experience to be vice-president, and jokes are sometimes made about mistakes he has made.

quea-sy /'kwɪzi/ *adj infml* **1** feeling that one is going to **VOMIT**: *I felt a little queasy on the ship.* | *a queasy stomach* **2** [(about, at)] unwilling to do something; **UNEASY** —*sily adv* —*siness n* [U]

Que-bec /kwɪ'bek/ **1** a **PROVINCE** in E Canada. Quebec is an industrial and farming area, and the centre of French Canadian **CULTURE** and language. Quebec has sometimes considered whether it should separate from the rest of Canada and become a nation by itself. Some people in Canada see Quebec as a troublemaker for this reason and do not like some of the things the government has allowed Quebec to do in order to keep it as part of Canada, for example, making French the official language of business and education in Quebec. **2** capital city of Quebec province, the centre of French Canadian nationalism

Qué-bé-çois /,keɪbe'kwɑ:-/ *n* **Québécois** a person who lives in Quebec, Canada

queen¹ /kwɪ:n/ *n* **1** [(of)] (*sometimes cap.*) (the title of) a female ruler of a country, usu. the daughter of a former ruler: *Queen Elizabeth the Second* | *She became queen in 1952.* **b** the wife of a king —see **KINGDOM** (**USAGE**) **2** [(of)] the leading female, often chosen in a competition: *a beauty queen* | (fig.) *London is the queen of British cities.* —see also **MAY QUEEN** **3** (*often in comb.*) the leading female insect of a group: *the queen ant/bee* **4** a the most powerful piece in **CHESS** **b** [(of)] any of the four playing cards with a picture of a queen —see **CARDS** (**USAGE**), and see picture at **CHESS** **5** *derog sl* a male **HOMOSEXUAL**. This word is used by homosexuals among themselves, but they consider it offensive when it is said by other people.

queen² *v* [T] **1** (in **CHESS**) to change (a **PAWN**) into a queen **2** *queen it* *BrE infml derog* (of a woman) to behave in an unpleasantly proud way

Queen¹ [*the*] Her Majesty the Queen; the official title of the queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Queen is the official head of state of Britain and of other countries in the **COMMONWEALTH** (1), but has little real political power. She has to give her official agreement (Royal Assent) to all new laws before they can actually become laws but in fact she does not have the right to refuse this agreement. —see also **ELIZABETH II**

Queen² a British popular music group, successful in the 1970s and 1980s, whose **LEAD**³ singer was Freddie Mercury

Queen Anne /,..-/ *adj* **1** a style of furniture popular in the 18th century: *a Queen Anne chair* | *Queen Anne legs* (=legs on a table, chair, etc. that are curved) **2** a style of **ARCHITECTURE** known by its **CLASSICAL** (1) detail and red **BRICKWORK** (from Queen Anne of Britain (1665–1714))

queen con-sort /,..'./ *n* **queens consort** (*often caps.*) (a special title sometimes given to) the wife of a ruling king —compare **PRINCE CONSORT**

Queen Elizabeth I see **ELIZABETH I**

Queen Elizabeth II¹ see **ELIZABETH II** —see colour picture on page 752

Queen Elizabeth II² see **QE2**

Queen E-liz-a-beth Hall /,..'./ [*the*] a concert hall in London, part of the South Bank Arts Centre, known as a place for performances of **CLASSICAL** music

Queen E-liz-a-beth Is-lands /,..'./ [*the* +P] a group of islands off the N coast of Canada

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother see **QUEEN MOTHER**

queen-ly /'kwɪzli/ *adj* *apprec* like or suitable for a queen: *her queenly dignity*

Queen Mab /kwɪ:n 'mæb/ the queen of the fairies (**FAIRY** (1)) in various old stories

queen moth-er /,..'./ *n* the mother of a ruler

Queen Moth-er /,..'./ also **Queen Mum** /,..'./ *BrE infml*— [*the*] (1900–) **Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother**, mother of Elizabeth II and widow of King George VI. She is popular with the British people and is seen as a caring

person who gives support and sympathy to ordinary people.

Queen of She-ba /ˌkwɪzn əv ˈʃɪzbə/ *n* a person who is very rich or who spends money as if they were very rich (from the Bible story of the wealth of the Queen of Sheba who visited Solomon)

Queen of the May /ˌkwɪzn ˈmeɪ/ *n* see MAY QUEEN

Queens /ˈkwɪznz/ one of the five BOROUGHs of New York City, on the W end of Long Island —see colour map on page 1376

Queen's Bench /ˌkwɪzn ˈbentʃ/ also **Queen's Bench Di-vi-sion** /ˌkwɪzn ˈbentʃ ˈdɪvɪʒən/ *n* [the] (the name given, while a queen is ruling, to) a division of the High Court of Justice in England —compare KING'S BENCH

Queens-ber-ry rules /ˌkwɪznzbəri ˈru:lz/ *n* [the+P] the rules of fair fighting in BOXING (from the Marquess of Queensberry who made up the rules)

Queen's birth-day /ˌkwɪzn ˈbɜːθdeɪ/ *n* [the] either April 21, the Queen's actual birthday, or her Official Birthday, the second Saturday in June —see also OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY

Queen's Coun-sel /ˌkwɪzn ˈkaʊnsəl/ *n* see QC

Queen's En-glish /ˌkwɪzn ˈɪŋlɪʃ/ *n* [the+S] (the expression sometimes used, while a queen is ruling, to describe) good correct English as spoken in Britain —compare KING'S ENGLISH

queen's ev-i-dence /ˌkwɪzn ˈeɪdɪns/ also **king's evidence** *BrE* || **state's evidence** *AmE* — *n* (often caps.) turn **queen's evidence** *BrE* (of a criminal) to give information in a court of law against other criminals, esp. in order to get less punishment oneself

queen-size /ˌkwɪzn ˈsaɪz/ *adj* *AmE* (of a bed, sheets, etc.) being larger than standard size: *a queen-size mattress*

Queens-land /ˈkwɪznzlənd/ a state in NE Australia, known for its sugar EXPORT and mines and also the Great Barrier Reef, a popular tourist attraction

Queens-Mid-town Tun-nel /ˌkwɪzn ˈmɪdtaʊn ˈtʌnəl/ *n* [the] a traffic tunnel under the East River that connects Manhattan and Queens —see colour map on page 1376

Queen's Own High-land-ers /ˌkwɪzn ˈoʊn ˈhaɪləndəz/ *n* [the +P] a Scottish REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army

Queen's Park Ran-gers /ˌkwɪzn ˈpɑːk ˈræŋɡəz/ also **QPR** *infml* — a London football team

Queen's speech /ˌkwɪzn ˈspi:tʃ/ *n* [the] the speech made by the Queen at the opening of the British Parliament each year. It is prepared by the government and gives details of the government's programme for the next year, and their political ideas.

queer /ˈkwɪə/ *adj* rather old-fash **1** strange or difficult to explain: *What a queer story!* | *It's queer that she never answered.* **2** *infml* slightly unwell: *I'm feeling a little queer; I think I'll go home.* **3** *infml derog* for HOMOSEXUAL **4** *infml* slightly mad: *She's a bit queer in the head.* **5** in 'queer street *BrE* *sl* in debt; in trouble over money matters — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

queer ² *n* old-fash *infml derog* a male HOMOSEXUAL

queer ³ *v* **queer** someone's pitch to spoil someone's plans or chances

queer bash-ing /ˌkwɪə ˈbæʃɪŋ/ *n* [U] the act of attacking people because they are HOMOSEXUALS

quell /kwel/ *v* [T] to bring to an end, esp. by force: "Army Quells Rebellion" (in newspaper) | *The government's reassurances have done nothing to quell the doubts of the public.*

quench /kwentʃ/ *v* [T (with)] **1** to satisfy (one's thirst) by drinking: *She quenched her thirst with a glass of cold milk.* | *a thirst-quenching drink* **2** *lit* to put out (flames, a light, etc.)

quer-u-lous /ˈkwɛrjʊləs/ *adj fml derog* habitually complaining, esp. in a weak self-pitying way: *querulous voices/old ladies* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

que-ry ¹ /ˈkwɪəri/ *n* a question or doubt: *I'd like to raise a few queries here.*

query ² *v* [T] to express doubt or uncertainty about: *I would like to query the speaker's last point.* [+wh-] *He queried whether the law allowed this sort of procedure.*

quest /kwɛst/ *n* [(of, for)] esp. *lit* a long search; an attempt to find something: *the continuing quest for a cure for the*

disease | *They travelled in quest of gold.* —quest *v* [I (for, after)]

ques-tion ¹ /ˈkwɛstʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a sentence or phrase which asks for information: *I asked you a question and you didn't answer.* | *The question is: how was he killed?* | *In response to your last question, no, I do not intend to resign.* | *Answer three out of the five questions on the exam paper* **2** [C] a matter that needs to be settled or dealt with; ISSUE: *The government is examining the energy question closely.* | *It's a question of finding enough time.* | *At the end of the meeting, a number of important questions were still unresolved.* **3** [C;U (about)] (a) doubt or uncertainty: *There's no question about it: she did it.* | *This incident raises further questions about the effectiveness of airport security.* | *His honesty is beyond question* (=cannot be doubted) | *is open to question.* (=may be doubted) [+that] *There's no question about her sincerity* | *that she is sincere.* (=she is certainly sincere) **4** in question under consideration; being talked about: *That is not the point in question.* **5** out of the question impossible: *You can't go to the wedding in that old shirt; it's quite out of the question.* **6** pop the question *infml* to ask someone to marry you: *It took him months to pluck up enough courage to pop the question.* **7** there's no question of there's no possibility of: *There's no question of our dismissing you.* (=we certainly will not) —see also LEADING QUESTION, VEXED QUESTION, beg the question (BEG), call into question (CALL¹)

question ² *v* [T] **1** [(about)] to ask (someone) questions: *Two men are being questioned by the police in connection with the robbery.* **2** to have or express doubts about: *I would never question his honesty* | *his ability.* [+wh-] *I question whether this policy will be effective.* —see ASK (USAGE) — *~er n*

ques-tion-a-ble /ˈkwɛstʃənəbəl/ *adj* **1** not certain: *It's questionable whether she told him.* **2** perhaps not true, right, or honest: *highly questionable behaviour in money matters* — *bly adv*

ques-tion-ing /ˈkwɛstʃənɪŋ/ *adj* appearing to have doubts or want information: *She gave him a questioning look.* — *~ly adv*

question mark /ˈkwɛstʃən ˈmɑːk/ *n* the mark (?) used at the end of a sentence that asks a question: (fig.) *There's a big question mark over the future of this football club.* (=it may soon no longer exist) —see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK

question mas-ter /ˈkwɛstʃən ˈmɑːstə/ esp. *BrE* || usu. **quizmaster** *AmE* — *n* the person who asks the questions in a QUIZ game

ques-tion-naire /ˈkwɛstʃənəˈneɪr, ˈkɛs-/ *n* a written set of questions which a large number of people are asked to answer in order to provide information, e.g. for a government or company

question tag /ˈkwɛstʃən ˈtæg/ *n* TAG¹ (4)

question time /ˈkwɛstʃən ˈtaɪm/ *n* [U] the period of time in a parliament when ministers answer members' questions. Question time is shown on television and can be interesting to watch because of the loud, sometimes angry discussions which take place. —see also PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

Quet-zal-co-at-l /ˈkɛtsəl-kəʊˈætɪl/ a NATIVE AMERICAN nature god shown in pictures as a snake with feathers on its head

queue ¹ /kjuz/ *BrE* || *line* *AmE* — [(of)] *n* **1** a line of people, cars, etc., waiting to move, to get on a vehicle, to enter a building, etc.: *There was a long queue outside the cinema* | *at the bus stop.* | (fig.) *There's a queue of people waiting for new houses.* | (fig.) *policies aimed at reducing the dole queues* (=the number of people without work) —see also jump the queue (JUMP¹ (14)) **2** tech a computer feature that allows similar operations of different users to be dealt with one at a time: *There are four jobs in the queue.* | *Shut down that queue as soon as it's empty.*

queue ² *v* [I (UP, for)] *BrE* **1** to form or join a line while waiting: *We queued (up) for the bus.* | *People are queueing to buy tickets.* **2** [I;T (up)] tech to put into a QUEUE¹ (2): *I corrected the mistakes but I haven't queued the file yet.* | *Your job's queued up and should print out in a couple of minutes.*

queue-jump /ˈkwɪz ˈdʒʌmp/ *v* [I] *BrE derog* to join a queue at a point in front of other people who have been waiting longer than oneself — *jumper n*

- quib-ble** /'kwɪbəl/ *v* [I (about, over, with)] *derog* to argue about small unimportant points or details: *Don't quibble (with her) over the money; pay her what she asks.* — **quibble** *n*: *I have just one quibble (=small complaint): there's not enough salt.* — **bler** *n*
- quiche** /kiːʃ/ *n* [C;U] a flat open pastry case filled with a mixture of eggs and cream and such things as cheese, BACON, and vegetables. In Britain and the US, there is an association of quiche with weakness, esp. in men, as in the saying "Real men don't eat quiche", used in a humorous way.
- quick**¹ /kwɪk/ *adj* **1** a performing an action in an unusually short time; acting with speed; fast: *a quick worker* | *He's quick with his hands.* [F+to-v] *She's quick to learn/quick at learning.* | *His opponents were quick to take advantage of his mistake.* | *Bring me that book, and be quick about it!* (=hurry up) **b** done in a short time; soon finished: *a quick journey* | *a quick drink* **2** easily showing anger (in the phrases **a quick temper, quick tempered**) **3** *old use* living; alive: [also *n*, the+P] *the quick and the dead* **4** clever and able to learn or understand fast: *a quick learner* | *She's very quick.* —see CLEVER (USAGE) — **~ly** *adv*: *You got here quickly; did you come by car?* | *Come quickly; he's drowning!* | *The report was quickly prepared for publication.* — **~ness** *n* [U]
- quick**² *adv* quickly; fast: *Come quick; something terrible has happened!* | *Everyone wants to get rich quick.* | *a quick-acting drug*
- quick**³ *n* [(the) U] the flesh to which the fingernails and toenails are joined: (fig.) *He cut me to the quick* (=upset me deeply) *with his unkind remark.*
- quick bread** /'kwɪkbrɛd/ *n* [U] *AmE* any of several kinds of bread which do not use YEAST so can be baked immediately: *a selection of quick bread recipes*
- quick-change** /'kwɪkʃeɪŋ/ *adj* [A] (of an actor) frequently changing clothes during a performance: *a quick-change artist*
- quick-en** /'kwɪkən/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) become quicker: *the quickening pace of technological change* **2** *old use or lit* to (cause to) show life: *The seeds are quickening in the soil.* | *The recent television series has quickened* (=increased) *interest in this subject.*
- quick-fire** /'kwɪkfʌɪə/ *adj* sharp and lively, usu. of speech or conversation
- quick-freeze** /'kwɪkfriːz/ || also **flashfreeze** *AmE* — *v* [T] to freeze food rapidly so that the quality is not damaged
- quick-ie** /'kwɪki/ *n* *infml* something done or made in a hurry: *a quickie divorce*
- quick-lime** /'kwɪk-laɪm/ *n* [U] LIME¹ (1)
- quick-sand** /'kwɪksænd/ *n* also **quicksands** *pl.* — [C;U] wet sand which sucks in anyone or anything that tries to cross it
- quick-silver** /'kwɪksɪlvə/ *n* [U] *old use* for MERCURY
- quick-step** /'kwɪkstep/ *n* (music for) a dance with fast steps
- quick-wit-ted** /'kwɪkwɪtɪd/ *adj* clever; quick to understand and take action
- quid** /kwɪd/ *n* **quid** *BrE infml* **1** a pound in money; £1: *She earns at least 200 quid a week.* **2** to be quids in to be in a fortunate position: *If you can sell your car for the same price as you bought it, you'll be quids in.*
- quid pro quo** /'kwɪd prəʊ 'kwəʊ/ *n* **quid pro quos** [(for)] *Lat* something given or received in exchange for something else: *We let them have a discount on purchases as a quid pro quo for the use of their computer.*
- qui-es-cent** /kwɪ'esənt, kwai-/ *adj fml* at rest; in a state of inactivity, esp. one that will not last — **~ly** *adv* — **cence** *n* [U]
- qui-et**¹ /'kwaɪət/ *adj* **1** with little noise: *a quiet voice* | *Be quiet! I'm telephoning.* | *The latest model has a new quieter engine.* **2** without unwanted activity or excitement; untroubled; calm: *a quiet life* | *The situation at the border is fairly quiet at the moment.* (=without fighting, shooting, etc.) **3** not attracting attention: *Can I have a quiet word with you?* | *her quiet confidence* **4** **All Quiet on the Western Front** the title of a book about the First World War. The phrase is now sometimes used humorously when talking about a period of calm and peace during an argument. — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]
- quiet**² *n* [U] **1** the state of being quiet; quietness: *Calm down, children; give your father some peace and quiet.*
- 2 on the quiet** *infml* without telling anyone; secretly
- qui-et-en** /'kwaɪətən/ *BrE* || **quiet** *AmE* — *v* **1** [I;T (DOWN)] to (cause to) become quiet: *The children were shouting, but they soon quietened down.* **2** [T] to make (fears, worries, etc.) less severe; ALLAY
- qui-et-is-m** /'kwaɪətɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** a religious system which teaches that one should give up all desires, and gain peace by thinking quietly about God and holy things **2** *often derog* calm acceptance of things as they are, without any effort to change them: *political quietism* — **ist** *n*
- qui-e-tude** /'kwaɪətjuːd/ || -tuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* calmness; stillness
- qui-e-tus** /kwaɪ'ɪtəs, kwi'eɪtəs || kwaɪ'ɪtəs/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *lit or fml rare* **1** death, or the act which brings it **2** the settlement of something by bringing it to an end: *She gave the false rumour its quietus.*
- quiff** /kwɪf/ *n* *BrE* the part of a man's hairstyle where the hair stands up at the front over the forehead
- quill** /kwɪl/ *n* **1** a bird's feather, esp. a long stiff one in the wing or tail **2** also **quill pen** /, -/ — a pen made from this, used in former times **3** a sharp pointed growth on some animals —see picture at PORCUPINE
- quilt** /kwɪlt/ *n* a cloth cover for a bed filled with soft warm material such as feathers: *a patchwork quilt* —see also CONTINENTAL QUILT
- quilt-ed** /'kwɪltɪd/ *adj* made with cloth containing soft material with stitching across it: *a quilted housecoat*
- quilting bee** /'kwɪltɪŋ biː/ *n* *AmE old-fash* a group of women who get together to make QUILTS
- quin** /kwɪn/ *BrE* || **quint** /kwɪnt/ *AmE* — *n infml* for QUINTUPLET
- quince** /kwɪns/ *n* a hard fruit related to the apple, used esp. for making jelly
- quin-ine** /'kwɪnɪn || 'kwɪnaɪn/ *n* [U] a drug used for treating fevers, esp. MALARIA
- quinine wa-ter** /'kwɪnɪn wɔːtə/ *n* [U] *AmE* TONIC WATER
- Quin-qua-ges-i-ma** /'kwɪŋkwə'dʒesɪmə/ *n* [U] *tech* the Sunday before Lent (from Latin quinquaginta, meaning 50, since Quinquagesima is about 50 days before Easter)
- quin-tes-sence** /kwɪn'tesəns/ *n* [the+S+of] *fml* the perfect type or example: *John is the quintessence of good manners.* — **~sential** /'kwɪntɪ'sentʃəl/ *adj*: *This film is the quintessential horror movie.* — **~sentially** *adv*
- quin-tet**, -tette /kwɪn'tet/ *n* **1** [+sing./pl. v] five singers or musicians performing together: *A quintet is/are playing tonight.* **2** a piece of music for five performers — compare QUARTET, SEXTET
- quin-tu-plet** /'kwɪntjʊplɪt, kwɪn'tjuːp- || kwɪn'tap-/ also **quin** *BrE* || **quint** *AmE* — *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of five children born of the same mother at the same time
- quip**¹ /kwɪp/ *n* a clever amusing remark made without planning it in advance
- quip**² *v* -pp- [I] to make a quip
- quire** /kwaɪə/ *n* 24 pieces of paper —compare REAM¹ (1)
- quirk** /kwɜːk || kwɜːrk/ *n* **1** a strange happening or accident: *By some quirk of fate the two of us were on the same train.* **2** a strange little habit or part of a person's character; FOIBLE: *One of his quirks is that he refuses to travel by train.* — **~y** *adj* — **~ily** *adv* — **~iness** *n* [U]
- quis-ling** /'kwɪzɪŋ/ *n* *derog* someone who helps an enemy country that has taken control of his/her own country (from Vidkun Quisling, a Norwegian politician who helped the Germans in Norway during the Second World War)
- quit**¹ /kwɪt/ *v* **quit** (also **quitted** *BrE*) *present participle* **quitting** **1** [I;T] *infml* to stop (doing something) and leave: *I've quit my job.* [+v-ing] *I've quit working.* | *I'd had enough, so I quit.* **2** [T] *old use* to leave (a place)
- quit**² *adj* [F+of] becoming rare finished with; free of: *We're quit of all our difficulties.*
- quite** /kwaɪt/ *predeterminer, adv* **1** completely; perfectly: *quite different* | *I'm not quite ready to go.* | "Are you ready?" "Not quite." | *You're quite right.* | *If you want to go, that's quite all right with me.* | *not quite all/enough/so much* | *It's quite the best shop in the area.* | *I don't quite know what to say.* | (shows annoyance) *If you've quite finished interrupting, perhaps I can continue.* **2** esp. *BrE* to some degree; rather: *quite a good story* | *quite small* | *quite a lot of people* | *It takes quite a/some time.* | *It was*

quite good, but not perfect. **3** *esp. BrE* (used as an answer) I agree; that's true: "It's unreasonable to expect any improvement at this stage." "Quite (so)." **4** *AmE* *very*: *That meal was quite good.* **5** *quite a/an* (*esp. AmE*) *often* *apprec* an unusual; an above average: *That was quite a party/quite some party.* (=it was unusually noisy or nice or long or wild) | *She's quite a girl.* **6** *quite something* *infml* unusual, *esp.* very good: *It's quite something to be made a government minister at the age of 29: Criticism and Praise, Tentativeness*

▷ **USAGE** In American English, **quite** can be used to mean "very" in sentences where in British English it means "fairly": *That dress is quite nice* means "very nice" in American English and "fairly nice" in British English. —see also **FAIRLY** (**USAGE**)◁

quits /kwɪts/ *adj* [**F (with)**] *infml* back on an even level with someone after an argument, after repaying money which is owed, etc.: *Now we're quits.* | *I'm quits with him.* | *Give me £5 and we'll call it quits.* (=agree that nothing more is owed) —see also **double or quits** (**DOUBLE**²)

quit-tance /'kwɪtəns/ *n* *law* a statement freeing someone from repayment of money or from performing a duty

quit-ter /'kwɪtə/ *n* *infml derog* a person who lacks the courage to finish things when they meet difficulties

quiver¹ /'kwɪvə/ *v* [**I (with, at)**] to make a slight trembling movement, *esp.* from fear or excitement: *I quivered (with fear) at the sound.* | *Her voice was quivering with anger.* —**quiver** *n*: *I felt a quiver of excitement.*

quiver² *n* a container for carrying **ARROWS**

qui vive /,ki: 'vi:v/ *n* *Fr on the qui vive* *infml* watchful; careful to notice

quix-ot-ic /kwɪk'sɒtɪk/ -'sa:-/ *adj* trying to do the impossible, often so as to help others, while getting oneself into danger (from Don Quixote, **HERO** of the **NOVEL** *Don Quixote de la Mancha*): *His behaviour was very quixotic.* —see also **DON QUIXOTE** — ~ **ally** /kli/ *adv*

quiz¹ /kwɪz/ *n* -zz- **1** a competition or game in which competitors have to answer questions: *a TV quiz show* **2** *esp. AmE* a short examination: *The teacher gave us a quiz at the end of the lesson.*

quiz² *v* -zz- [**T (about)**] to ask questions of (someone), *esp.* repeatedly: *He quizzed me about where I'd been last night.*

quiz-mas-ter /'kwɪzmɑ:stə/ -mæ-/ *n* *esp. AmE* for **QUESTION MASTER**

quiz-zi-cal /'kwɪzɪkəl/ *adj* (of a smile or look) suggesting that one is asking a question without saying anything or that one is laughing at the other person: *a quizzical glance* —**cally** /kli/ *adv*

quod /kwɒd/ || kwɑ:d/ *n* [**(in)** **U**] *BrE* *old-fash sl* a prison

quoit /kwɔɪt, kɔɪt/ *n* a ring that is thrown over a small upright post in a game (**quoits**) often played on ships

quon-dam /'kwɒndəm, -dæm/ || 'kwɑ:n-/ *adj* [**A**] *pomp* (at) one time; former: *a quondam friend*

Quon-set hut /'kwɒnset ,hʌt/ || 'kwɑ:n-/ *n* *AmE* *tdmk* a large shelter with a round roof made of iron sheets —compare **NISSEN HUT**

quo-rate /'kwɔ:rɪt/ *adj* *tech* (of a meeting) having a quorum present —opposite **inquorate**

Quorn /kwɔ:n/ || kwɔ:rn/ *n* [**U**] *BrE* *tdmk* a vegetable **PROTEIN** used in cooking, *esp.* by non-meat eaters, instead of meat

quo-rum /'kwɔ:rəm/ *n* a stated number of people, without whom a meeting cannot be held: *As soon as John arrives we will have a quorum, and the meeting can begin.*

quo-ta /'kwɔ:tə/ *n* [**(of)**] a number or amount that has been officially fixed as someone's share, e.g. of goods that must be produced, people that can be allowed in a place, etc.: *The factory has fulfilled its production quota.* | *The university has exceeded its quota of science students.*

quo-ta-ble /'kwɔ:təbəl/ *adj* worthy of being quoted: *He uttered the very quotable remark "Never...have so many owed so much to so few".* —**bility** /,kwɔ:tə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [**U**]

quo-ta-tion /kwɔ:'teɪʃən/ *n* **1** [**C**] also **quote** *infml*— a sentence or phrase taken from a work of literature or other piece of writing and repeated, *esp.* in order to prove a point or support an argument **2** [**U**] the act of quoting **3** [**C**] also **quote** *infml*— the calculated cost of a piece of work: *They gave me a quotation for mending the roof.* (=told me how much it would cost) —compare **ESTIMATE**² (**2**)

quotation mark /'..../ also **inverted comma**— *n* either of a pair of marks (" ") or (' ') showing the beginning and end of words quoted —see picture at **PUNCTUATION MARK**

quote¹ /kwɔ:t/ *v* **1** [**I (from)**; **T**] to repeat in speech or writing the words of (a person, a book, etc.): *She asked the newspaper reporter not to quote her remark.* | *The president was quoted as saying that he would not stand for re-election.* | *She quoted (from) the report to support her point.* | *Don't quote me on this* (=don't publicly repeat what I am saying), *but I think the company is in serious difficulties.* **2** [**T**] to mention (an example) to add force to one's argument: *She quoted several cases of unjust imprisonment.* **3** [**T**] to state (a price), e.g. for services offered: *He quoted £100 for mending the roof.* | *The company's shares are currently quoted at 84 pence.* —compare **ESTIMATE**¹ (**2**)

quote² *n* *infml* **1** a **QUOTATION** (**1,3**) **2** **in quotes** in quotation marks

quote³ *adv* (used in speech to show that one is starting to quote): *The figures given are (quote) "not to be trusted" (unquote), according to this writer.*

quoth /kwɔ:θ/ *v* **quoth** **I/he/she** *old use* **I/he/she** said: "Here shall I stay for ever?" *quoth the magic bird.*

quo-tid-i-an /kwɔ:'tɪdiən/ *adj* [**A**] *old use or fml* daily: *quodidian duties*

quo-tient /'kwɔ:fənt/ *n* a number which is the result when one number is divided by another

Qu-r'an /kɔ:'rɑ:n, kə-||kə'ræn, -'rɑ:n/ *n* [**the**] the **KORAN**

q.v. *abbrev. for:* (*Lat*) quod vide; (used for telling readers to look in another place in the same book to find something out)

qwerty /'kwɜ:ti/ || 'kwɜ:rti/ *adj* *BrE* (of the **KEYBOARD** of a **TYPEWRITER** or computer) of the ordinary sort, whose top line begins with the letters Q, W, E, R, T, and Y

R

R /ɑːr/ **R's, r's or Rs, rs** 1 the 18th letter of the English alphabet 2 *AmE* (of a film) which children under 17 may not see except with an adult 3 **unless there is an R in the month** except during the winter months (used when saying that certain foods should only be eaten during the winter months) —see also **THREE R's**

R 1 *abbrev. for:* royal, as in R.A.F. 2 *written abbrev. for:* (on a map) river 3 *abbrev. for:* REX or REGINA: *Elizabeth R*

RA /,ɑːr 'ei/ *abbrev. for:* 1 REAR ADMIRAL 2 ROYAL ACADEMY 3 ROYAL ARTILLERY

RAA /,ɑːr ei 'ei/ *abbrev. for:* ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Ra-bat /rə'ba:t/ the capital city of Morocco, on the Atlantic coast

rab-bi /'ræbaɪ/ *n* a Jewish priest —see **FATHER (USAGE)**

rab-bin-i-cal /rə'binɪkəl/ *adj* of or being the writings, teaching, etc., of Jewish religious leaders and teachers



hare



rabbit

rab-bit /'ræbɪt/ *n* 1 [C] a common small long-eared animal that lives in a **BURROW** (=a hole it makes in the ground), and which is often kept as a pet. In the past some country people used to carry a rabbit's foot with them because they thought it would bring them luck. Rabbits are also known for producing large numbers of young very quickly and jokes are sometimes made about this. —compare **HARE** 1 2 [U] the fur or meat of this animal 3 [C] *BrE infml* someone who plays a game badly: *I'm just a rabbit at tennis.*

rabbit ² *v -tt- or -t-* [I (ON)] *infml derog, esp. BrE* to talk continuously, esp. in an uninteresting or complaining way: *He keeps rabbiting (on) about his health.*

rabbit ears /'..../ *n* [P] *AmE* (a plastic holder with) two movable rods in the shape of a V which sit on top of a television set and are connected to it by a wire. They serve as an **AERIAL** 1: *We don't get very good reception with these rabbit ears.*

rabbit hole /'..../ *n* a hole where a rabbit lives. In the story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice goes down a rabbit hole and finds herself in a strange place where many surprising things happen. —see also **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

rabbit hutch /'..../ *n* a wooden cage for pet rabbits

rabbit punch /'..../ *n* a quick blow on the back of the neck

rabbit war-ren /'..../ *n* an area where wild rabbits live in their **BURROWS** (=holes): (fig.) *The old city is a real rabbit warren.* (=consists of many narrow winding streets)

rab-ble /'ræbəl/ *n* 1 [C+*sing./pl. v*] a noisy disorderly crowd of people; **MOB** 2 [*the+S*] *derog* the lower classes; the common people

rabble-rous-ing /'..../ *adj* (of a speaker or speech) exciting people to hatred and violence: *a rabble-rousing speech* —**rabble-rouser** *n*

Rab-e-lais /'ræbəleɪ/, **Fran-çois** /'frɒnswɑː||frɑːn'swɑː/ (1490–1553) a French writer whose books *Gargantua* and *Pantagruel* contain a mixture of often sexual humour, good sense, and sharp **SATIRE**

Ra-be-lai-si-an /,ræbə'leɪziən, -zən/ *adj* (of stories, writings, etc.) full of jokes about sex and the body that are shocking but harmless, like the work of the French writer Rabelais: *Rabelaisian humour*

rab-id /'ræbɪd/ *adj* 1 [*no comp.*] *tech* suffering from rabies:

a rabid dog 2 *derog* (of people or their opinions) violently and unreasoningly keen; fanatical (**FANATIC**): *a rabid Tory*

ra-bies /'reɪbɪz/ also **hydrophobia** *tech— n* [U] a disease of certain animals, including humans, passed on by the bite of an infected animal and causing madness and death

Ra-bin /ræ'biːn/, **Itz-hak** /'jɪtʃɑːk/ (1922–) an Israeli soldier and politician who became **PRIME MINISTER** in 1992

RAC /,ɑːr ei 'sɪz/ [*the*] Royal Automobile Club; a British organization for car owners which repairs or moves cars that have broken down: *I joined the RAC at the weekend.*

rac-coon, **raccoon** /rə'kuːn, ræ-||ræ-/ also **coon** *AmE infml— n* 1 [C] a small meat-eating North American animal with a long black-ringed tail 2 [U] the thick fur of this animal: *a raccoon coat*

race ¹ /reɪs/ *n* 1 [(**against, between, with**)] a competition in speed: *to have/run/lose/win a race* | *a ten-mile race* | *a boat race* | *a horse race* | (fig.) *a race against time* (=an attempt to complete something before it is too late) 2 *tech or lit* a strong flow of water: *A mill-race is the stream of water driving a water-mill.* —see also **ARMS RACE**, **RAT RACE**

race ² *v* 1 [I;T] to compete in a race (against): *She's a very good swimmer and often races.* | *I'll race you to the end of the road.* 2 [I;T+*obj+adv/prep*] to (cause to) move or go very fast; **RUSH**: *He came racing across the road.* | *We raced the sick woman to hospital.* | *We really had to race to get the work finished in time.* | (fig.) *The holidays raced by.* —see **RUN (USAGE)** 3 [T] to cause (an animal or vehicle) to run a race: *My horse has hurt his foot so I can't race him.* 4 [I] (of an engine) to run too fast, esp. because the machine that it drives is disconnected

race ³ *n* 1 [C] any of the main groups into which human beings can be divided according to their physical type: *the black/white/brown races* 2 [U] the fact of belonging to one of these groups: *The law forbids discrimination on the grounds of race or religion.* | *race relations* (=relations between different races) | *a person of mixed race* (=with parents who each belong to a different race) 3 [C] a group of people with the same history, language, customs, etc.: *the German race* 4 [C] *tech* a breed or type of animal or plant: *They bred an improved race of cattle.* —see also **RACISM**, **HUMAN RACE**

▷ **USAGE** **Race, nation, state, and tribe** are all words for large groups into which human beings may be divided. The largest of these groups is a **race**, a group of people of the same colour and/or physical type. A **nation** is a group of people who share a common history and usually a language, and usually but not always live in the same area: *the Native American nations*. A **state** is either a politically independent country, or one of the **states** making up a country such as the US: *The German nation was divided into two states, East Germany and West Germany*. A **tribe** is a social group, smaller than a **nation**, sharing the same customs and usually the same language, and often following an ancient way of life: *a wandering tribe of hunters in the Amazon forest*.◁

race car /'..../ *AmE* for **RACING CAR**

race-course /'reɪs-kɔːs||-kɔːrs/ *n* 1 *BrE* a track round which horses race 2 *AmE* a racetrack

race-horse /'reɪshɔːs||-hɔːrs/ *n* a horse specially bred and trained for racing

race meet-ing /'..../ *n* *BrE* an occasion when horse races are held at a particular place

race norm-ing /'reɪs ,nɔːmɪŋ||-ɔːr-/ *n* [U] *BrE* the practice of giving people of different races equal chances by giving employment, **HIGHER EDUCATION**, etc. to a certain number of each race according to their relative numbers in the society

rac-er /'reɪsə/ *n* an animal bred and trained for racing, or a vehicle planned for use in races

race re-la-tions /'..../ *n* [P] relations between people of different racial origin in a country. Britain has many different racial groups, including Indians, Pakistanis, and West Indians. Their interests are looked after by the Commission for Racial Equality. The US also has many different racial groups, including blacks, Hispanics, and Asians, as well as whites. Race relations, esp. in the large cities, are often a problem.

Race Re-lations Act /ˌrɪs.ɪ.ə.ɪ.ən/ [the] an Act of Parliament passed in 1976 to protect the legal rights of racial minorities (MINORITY) in Britain and to make sure that people are treated fairly whatever their colour, race, or nationality —see also COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

rac-es /ˈreɪsɪz/ *n* [the+P] a race meeting: *a day at the races*

race-track /ˈreɪs-træk/ *n* a track round which runners, cars, horses, etc., race

Rach-man-i-noff /rækˈmænɪnɒf/ || rækˈmænɪnɒf/, **Ser-gei Was-sil-ie-vitch** /ˈseɪgeɪ væˈsɪləvɪtʃ/ || seərˈgeɪ-/ (1873–1943) Russian COMPOSER, best known for his piano CONCERTOS and symphonies (SYMPHONY)

ra-cial /ˈreɪʃəl/ *adj* **1** of or connected with a person's race: *racial pride/customs*. **2** existing or happening between different races of people: *racial violence/harmony/segregation*

racial dis-crim-i-na-tion /ˌrɪs.ɪ.ə.ɪ.ən/ *n* [U] the unfair treatment of people because of their race. Racial discrimination is illegal in Britain and the US, and people and companies can be PROSECUTED (=brought before a court of law) for practising it. Racial discrimination can be difficult to prove, however, as it can be very SUBTLE (=existing, but hard to recognize). —see also COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY, RACE RELATIONS ACT

racial en-gi-neer-ing /ˌrɪs.ɪ.ə.ɪ.ən/ *n* BrE [U] the practice of doing things to give people of different races in a society equal chances in employment, education, etc. —compare AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

racial e-qual-ity /ˌrɪs.ɪ.ə.ɪ.ən/ *n* [U] the state in which all the races in a society have the same chances of employment, education, etc.

ra-cial-is-m /ˈreɪʃəlɪzəm/ *n* BrE [U] RACISM —*ist n, adj*

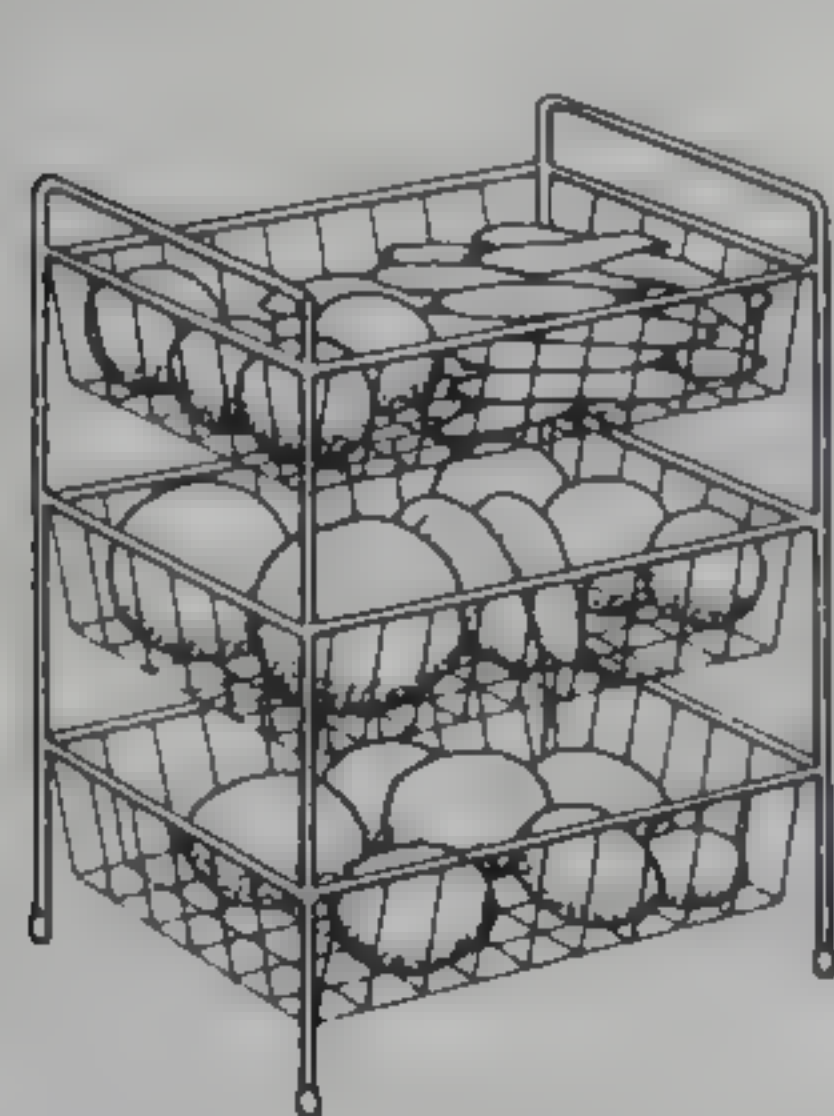
ra-cial-ly /ˈreɪʃəli/ *adv* from the point of view of race: *a racially mixed population*

Ra-cine /ræˈsiːn/, **Jean** /ʒəˈn ʒɑːn/ (1639–99) a French writer for the theatre, noted for his powerful plays based on CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY and history

rac-ing /ˈreɪsɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** used for racing in competitions: *a racing car | a racing pigeon*. **2** interested in or concerned with racing: *a racing club* —see also FLAT RACING

racing car /ˈrɪs.ɪ.ə.ɪ.ən/ *n* BrE || racecar AmE

ra-cis-m /ˈreɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the belief that racial differences between people are the main influence on their characters and abilities, and esp. that one's own race is the best. **2** dislike or unfair treatment of people based on this belief —compare XENOPHOBIA —*cist n, adj*: *racist policies | a racist attack*



vegetable rack



magazine rack

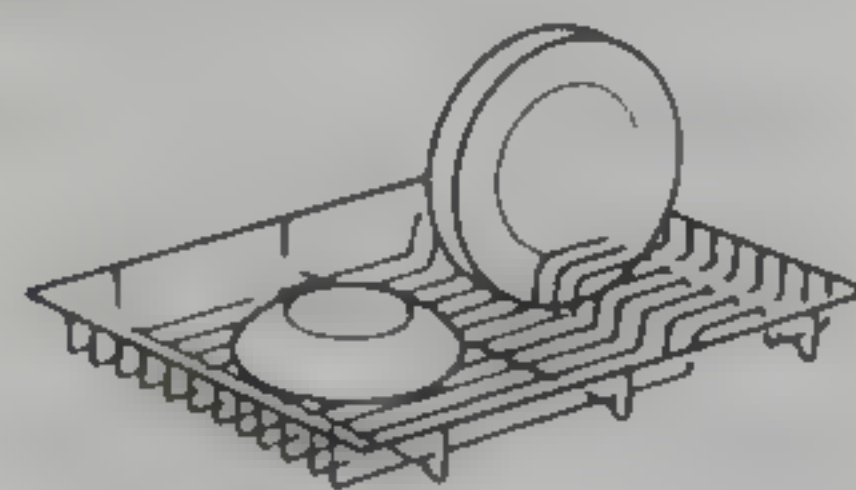
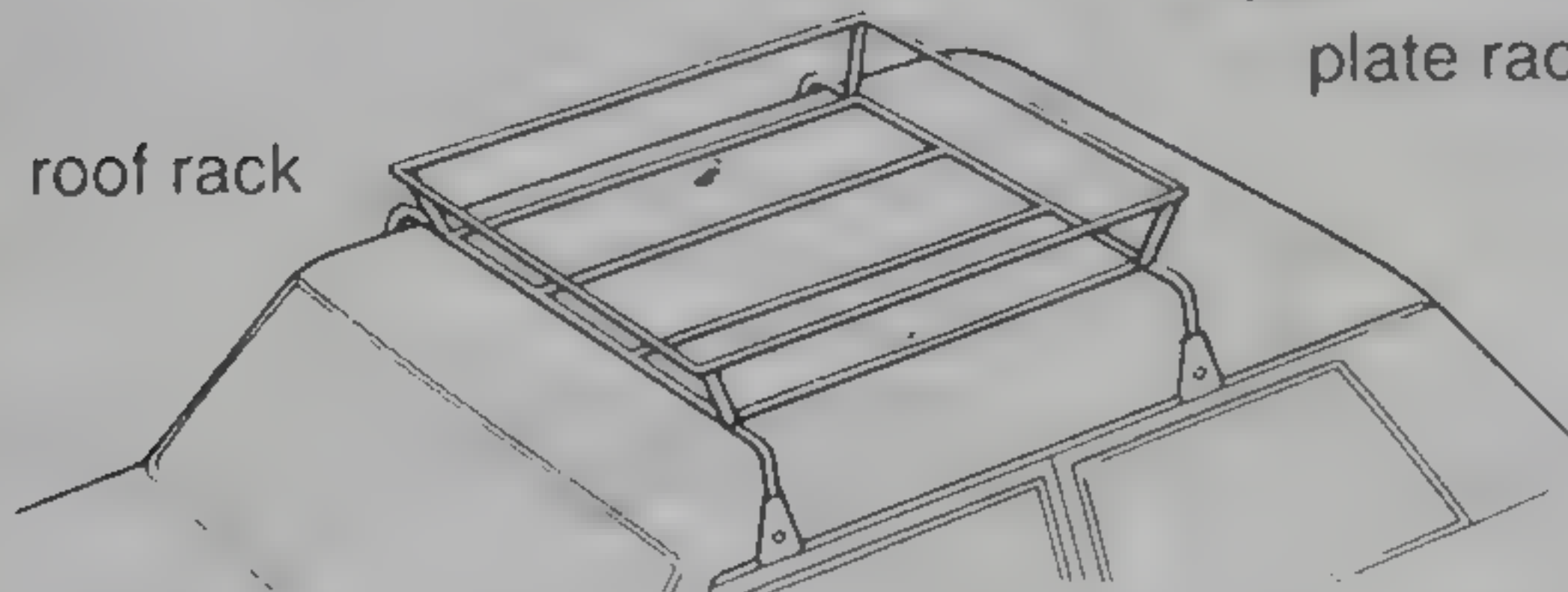


plate rack



roof rack

racks

rack ¹ /ræk/ *n* **1** [C] (often in comb.) a frame or shelf with bars, hooks, etc., for holding things: *Wash the dishes then put them in the plate rack to dry.* —see also LUGGAGE RACK, ROOF RACK **2** [the] an instrument formerly used to TORTURE people (=to cause them great pain) by stretching their bodies **3** [C] a part of a machine consisting of a bar with teeth on one edge, moved along by a PINION (=a wheel with teeth round its edge) **4** on the rack suffering from severe pain or anxiety

rack ² *v* [T] **1** [(by, with)] to cause great pain or anxiety to; TORTURE: *He was racked with pain/by doubts.* **2** rack one's brains to think very deeply or for a long time: *I really had to rack my brains to remember his name.*

rack sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* AmE *infml* **1** to gain (points, etc.) in a competition **2** to hurt; INJURE: *I've racked up my knee, so I can't play.*

rack ³, **wrack** *n* [U] **rack and ruin** a ruined state, esp. of a building, caused by lack of care: *The house was unoccupied for several years and went to rack and ruin/is in rack and ruin.*

rack ⁴, **wrack** *n* [C;U] *lit* (a) floating cloud

rack-et ¹, **racquet** /ˈrækɪt/ *n* an instrument consisting of a network usu. of nylon stretched in a frame with a handle, used for hitting the ball in games such as tennis —see also RACKETS and see picture at TENNIS

racket ² *n infml* **1** [S] a loud noise: *Stop making such a racket! I can't sleep.* **2** [C] a dishonest way of getting money, for example by threatening people or selling them goods which are useless or illegal: *a drugs racket* **b** humor any business or trade —see also PROTECTION RACKET

rack-e-teer /ˌrækɪˈtiə/ *n* *derog* someone who works a RACKET ² (2a): *Al Capone was a famous racketeer in Chicago.*

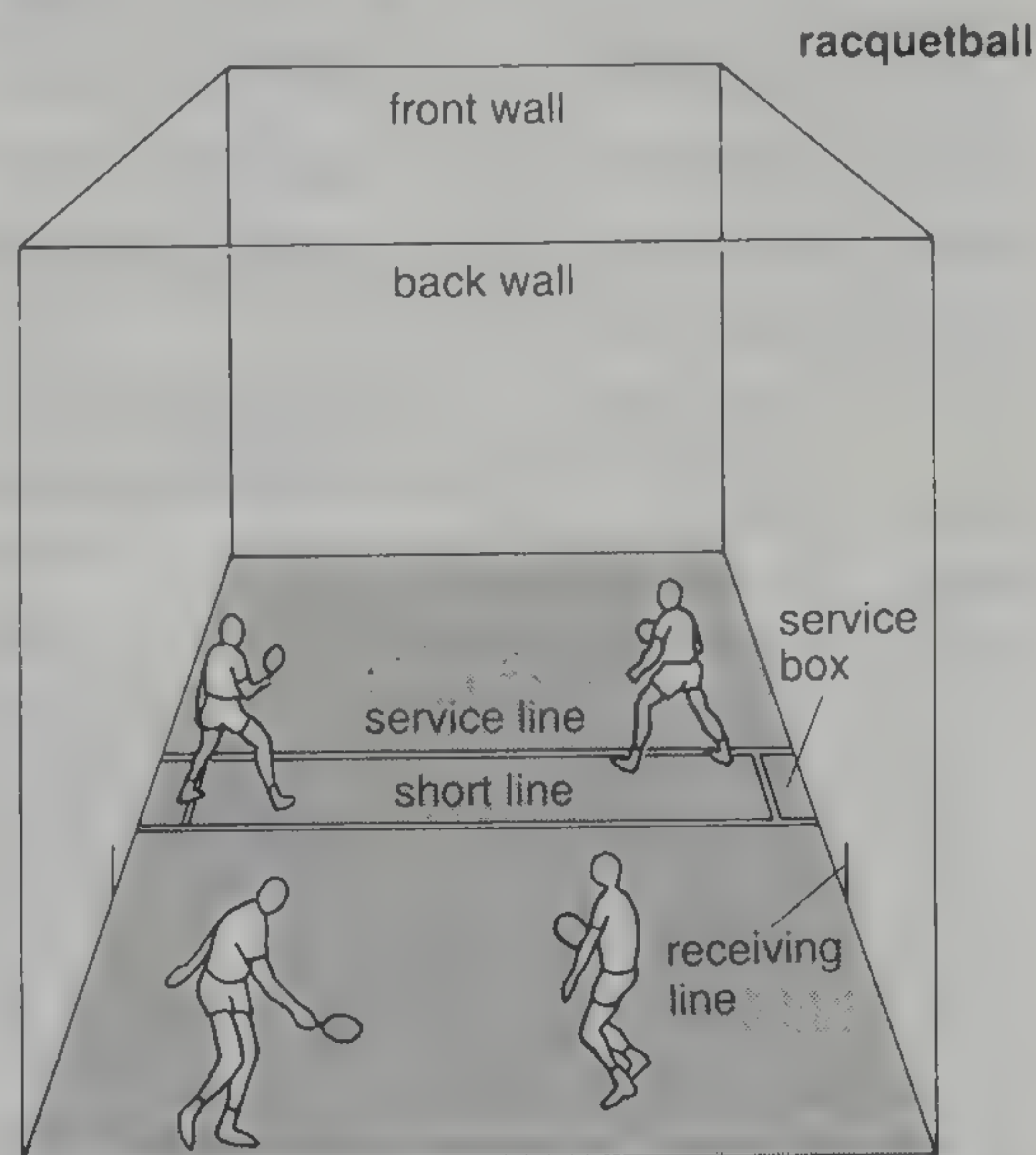
rack-ets, **racquets** /ˈrækɪts/ *n* [U] a fast ball game for two or four players, played with rackets and a hard ball in an enclosed court that is smaller than for SQUASH ² (2)

Rack-ham /ˈrækəm/, **Arthur** (1867–1939) an English artist who drew pictures for books, esp. fairy stories

rac-on-teur /ˌrækənˈtɜːr/ || -kɑːn/ *n* someone who is good at telling stories in an interesting and amusing way

ra-coon /rəˈkuːn, ræ-||ræ-/ *n* a RACCOON

rac-quet /ˈrækɪt/ *n* a RACKET ¹



see also picture at squash

rac-quet-ball /ˈrækɪtbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game played in a four-walled court by two or four people following the rules of HANDBALL but using a short-handled RACKET ¹. It is popular esp. in the US. —compare SQUASH

rac-quets /ˈrækɪts/ *n* [U] RACKETS

rac-y /ˈreɪsi/ *adj* (of speech or writing) amusing, full of life, and perhaps dealing with sex: *racy stories* —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

RADA /ˈrɑːdɑː/ Royal Academy of Dramatic Art; a school in London for people who want to become actors

ra-dar /ˈreɪdɑːr/ *n* [U] a method of finding the position of solid objects by receiving and measuring the speed of radio waves returning from them: *There are enemy aircraft on the radar screen.*

radar trap /ˈrɑːdɑː ˌtræp/ *n* a method, using radar, employed by police to catch motorists who are driving faster than the legal speed

- ra-di-al**¹ /ˈreɪdiəl/ *adj* arranged like a wheel; with bars, lines, etc., coming from the centre — *~ly adv*
- radial**² also **radial tyre** /ˈrædiəl ˈtaɪr/ *n* a car tyre with cords inside the rubber that go across the edge of the wheel rather than along it, so as to give better control — compare CROSS-PLY
- ra-di-ant** /ˈreɪdiənt/ *adj* **1** [A] sending out light or heat in all directions; shining: *the radiant sun* **2** [(with)] (of a person or his/her appearance) showing love and happiness: *her radiant face* | *She was radiant with joy.* **3** [A] *tech* sent out by radiation: *radiant heat* — *~ly adv* — *~ance n* [C;U]
- ra-di-ate** /ˈreɪdiət/ *v* [T] to send out (light or heat) in all directions: (fig.) *She radiated happiness/confidence.*
radiate from sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to come out or spread in all directions from: *A system of roads radiates from the town centre.*
- ra-di-a-tion** /ˈreɪdiˈeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the radiating of heat, light, etc. **2** [C] something which is radiated: *This apparatus produces harmful radiations.* **3** [U] RADIOACTIVITY (2): *an escape of low-level radiation from the nuclear power plant*
- radiation sick-ness** /ˈreɪdiˈeɪʃən ˈsɪk-nəs/ *n* [U] sickness that results from strong radiation (3), marked by NAUSEA, vomiting (VOMIT¹) and hair and teeth loss
- ra-di-a-tor** /ˈreɪdiətər/ *n* **1** an apparatus, esp. one consisting of pipes with steam or hot water passing through them, used for heating buildings — see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** an apparatus which keeps the engine of a motor vehicle cool — see pictures at CAR, ENGINE
- rad-i-cal**¹ /ˈrædɪkəl/ *adj* **1** (of a change) having wide and important effects; thorough and complete: *a radical reform of our tax system* | *The talks are aimed at radical reductions in the level of weapons.* **2** (of a person or his/her opinions) in favour of thorough and complete political change: *radical views* | *the radical wing of the party* | *the radical right* — compare REACTIONARY **3** *AmE* *sl* very good: *a radical wave to surf* — *~ly /kli/ adv*
- radical**² *n* a person who is in favour of radical changes, esp. social and political changes — *~ism n* [U]
- radical chic** /ˈrædɪkəl ˈtʃɪk/ *n* [U] *derog* LEFT WING political opinions which are not sincere but are held because of a desire to appear fashionable
- ra-dic-chi-o** /ræˈdɪkiəʊ||ræˈdɪz-/ *n* [C] a variety of CHICORY with red leaves, usu. eaten in a mixture of raw vegetables. Radicchio is expensive and has become fashionable in Britain and the US.
- rad-i-i** /ˈreɪdiəl/ *pl.* of RADIUS
- ra-di-o**¹ /ˈreɪdiəʊ/ *n* -os **1** [C] an apparatus for receiving sounds broadcast through the air by means of electrical waves: *to turn/switch the radio on/off* | *a transistor radio* — see pictures at LIVING ROOM and at OLD-FASHIONED **2** [U] the sending or receiving of sounds through the air by electrical waves: *Air traffic controllers were in radio contact with the aircraft.* | *a radio signal* **3** [U] the radio broadcasting industry: *a radio producer* | *a local radio station* **4** *on the radio* broadcast or broadcasting by radio: *I heard it on the radio.* | *John was on the radio again today.* — see also AM, FM
- radio**² -oed, -oing *v* **1** [I;T] to send (a message) through the air by means of electrical waves: *The ship radioed for help.* | *We must radio the message at once.* **2** [T] to send a message to (a place or person) in this way: *They radioed London for permission to land.*
- Radio 1** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈwʌn/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts mostly POP³ music and is listened to mostly by young people
- Radio 2** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈtuː/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts mostly music and ENTERTAINMENT programmes and is listened to esp. by older people
- Radio 3** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈθriː/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts mostly CLASSICAL music
- Radio 4** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈfɔːr/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts programmes on news and current affairs as well as plays and arts programmes. Radio 4 is considered to be a quality station and listened to by educated people.
- Radio 5** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈfaɪv/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts a variety of programmes
- radio-** see WORD FORMATION
- ra-di-o-ac-tive** /ˈreɪdiəʊˈæktɪv/ *adj* possessing or produced by radioactivity: *a highly radioactive material* | *radioactive contamination*
- radioactive dat-ing** /ˈreɪdiəʊˈæktɪv ˈdætɪŋ/ *n* [U] *AmE* CARBON DATING
- radioactive waste** /ˈreɪdiəʊˈæktɪv ˈweɪst/ *n* [U] also *radwaste* *AmE* — *n* [U] the radioactive BY-PRODUCTS from a NUCLEAR REACTOR, which are difficult to get rid of safely and are usu. buried
- ra-di-o-ac-tiv-i-ty** /ˈreɪdiəʊˈæktɪvɪti/ *n* [U] **1** the quality, harmful to living things, that some simple substances (ELEMENTS) have of giving out force (ENERGY) by the breaking up of atoms **2** the ENERGY given out in this way: *Some of the workers were exposed to radioactivity.*
- radio a-larm** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈɑːlm/ also *clock radio* — *n* a clock that can be set to turn on a radio to wake someone who is asleep — compare ALARM CLOCK
- radio bea-con** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈbiːkən/ also *beacon* — *n* a station that sends out radio signals to help planes to find their way
- radio car** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈkɑːr/ *n* a car fitted with radio for speaking to people away from the car
- ra-di-o-car-bon dat-ing** /ˈreɪdiəʊˈkɑːbən ˈdætɪŋ||-kɑːr-/ *n* [U] CARBON DATING
- Radio Cit-y Mu-sic Hall** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈsɪti ˈmjuːzɪk ˈhɔːl/ *n* a large theatre in New York City, which often had shows with lots of singing and dancing — see also ROCKETTES
- radio fre-quen-cy** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈfriːkwən-si/ *n* the FREQUENCY of the radio waves commonly used in broadcasting
- ra-di-o-gram** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈɡræm/ *n* **1** *BrE* a piece of furniture, popular esp. formerly, combining a radio and a record player **2** a message that has been radioed
- ra-di-og-ra-pher** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈɡræfər/ -ˈɑːg-/ *n* a person who makes or studies X-RAY photographs, esp. of people's bodies, or who treats illnesses with X-RAYS
- ra-di-og-ra-phy** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈɡræfɪ||-ˈɑːg-/ *n* [U] the taking of photographs made with short waves (X-RAYS), usu. for medical reasons
- ra-di-ol-o-gy** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈlɒlədʒi||-ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] the study and medical use of RADIOACTIVITY — *~gist n*
- radio tel-e-scope** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈtelɪskəp/ *n* a radio receiver used for following the movements of the stars and of spacecraft
- ra-di-o-ther-a-py** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈθerəpi/ *n* [U] the treatment of illnesses by RADIOACTIVITY — *~pist n*
- Radio Times** /ˈreɪdiəʊ ˈtaɪmz/ *n* [the] a weekly magazine which gives details of programmes on radio and television
- rad-ish** /ˈrædɪʃ/ *n* a small vegetable whose red or white sometimes hot-tasting root is eaten raw: *a bunch of radishes* — see picture at VEGETABLE
- ra-di-um** /ˈreɪdiəm/ *n* [U] a rare shining white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is RADIOACTIVE, and is used in the treatment of certain illnesses, esp. CANCER
- ra-di-us** /ˈreɪdiəs/ *n* -dii /ˈdiːi/ **1** (the length of) a straight line going from the side of a circle to the centre — compare DIAMETER (1) **2** a stated circular area measured from its centre point: *This tax affects every household within a ten-mile radius of the town.* **3** the outer bone of the lower arm — see picture at SKELETON
- ra-don** /ˈreɪdɒn||-dɑːn/ *n* [U] *tech* a RADIOACTIVE gas, usu. harmless but harmful in large amounts. Sometimes the gas will get into houses, where it is thought to cause health problems.
- rad-waste** /ˈrædweɪst/ *n* [U] *AmE* for RADIOACTIVE WASTE
- RAE** /ˈɑːr ɛɪ ˈiːz/ [the] the Royal Aircraft Establishment; a centre at Farnborough, England, under the control of the Royal Air Force for the planning and testing of new planes
- R.A.F.** /ˈɑːr ɛɪ ˈef, ɪnfml ræf/ [the] Royal Air Force; the British airforce: *He joined the R.A.F.*
- raf-fi-a** /ˈræfiə/ *n* [U] a soft stringlike substance from the leaf stems of a PALM tree, used for making hats, baskets, etc.
- raf-fish** /ˈræfɪʃ/ *adj* *usu. derog* (of a person or his/her behaviour or appearance) happy, wild, and not very respectable; DISREPUTABLE: *a raffish young man* | *raffish parties* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]
- raf-file**¹ /ˈræfəl/ *n* a way of making money, esp. for some good public purpose, by selling numbered tickets, some of which win prizes: *a raffle ticket* | *He won a car in the raffle.* — compare DRAW² (2), LOTTERY
- raffle**² *v* [T (OFF)] to offer as the prize in a raffle: *They're raffling (off) a colour TV.*

Raf-fles /'ræfəlz/ [*the*] the name of a famous hotel in Singapore, where English people stayed in COLONIAL times

Raf-san-ja-ni /,ræfsæn'dʒɑːni/, **Ho-ja-tol-es-lam Al-i Ak-bar Hash-e-mi** /'həʊdʒætɒlɪ,slɑːm 'æli 'ækbaːr 'hæfemi || 'ɑːli-/ (1934–) an Iranian religious teacher and politician who became state President after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989

raft¹ /rɑːft||ræft/ *n* 1 [C] a flat floating structure, usu. made of wood, used as a boat or as a landing place for swimmers 2 [C] also **life raft**— a small flat rubber boat that can be filled with air, for the use of passengers on a sinking ship or crashed aircraft 3 [S+of] *infml*, esp. *AmE* a large number or amount: *A whole raft of people came for drinks.*

raft² *v* [I;T] to travel or carry on a raft: *They rafted (the stores) down the river.*

raft-er /'rɑːftəː||'ræf-/ *n* any of the large sloping esp. wooden beams that hold up a roof

rag¹ /ræg/ *n* 1 [C;U] (a small piece of) old cloth: *He cleaned the machine with an oily rag/a piece of oily rag.* | (fig.) *I feel like a wet rag.* (=very tired) 2 [C *usu. pl.*] an old worn-out garment: *The beggar was dressed in rags.* —see also GLADRAGS 3 [C] *infml*, *usu. derog* a newspaper, esp. one of low quality: *the local rag* 4 **from rags to riches** from being very poor to being very rich: *a brilliant young footballer whose talent took him from rags to riches* 5 **on the rag** *AmE sl* having a PERIOD (4)

rag² *n* esp. *BrE* 1 an amusing procession of college students through the streets on a special day (**rag day**) or during a special week (**rag week**) each year, collecting money for CHARITY 2 *old-fash* a rough but harmless trick: *They pushed him into the river for/as a rag.*

rag³ *v* -gg- [T] *old-fash*, esp. *BrE* to play rough tricks on or make fun of: *They ragged him about his big ears.*

rag⁴ *n* a piece of music written in RAGTIME

ra-ga /'rɑːgə/ *n* 1 any of the many ancient patterns of notes in Indian music 2 a piece of music based on one of these patterns: *an evening raga*

rag-a-muf-fin /'rægə,mʌfɪn/ *n* esp. *lit* a dirty young child in torn clothes

rag-and-bone man /,ræŋdɒn/ *n* *BrE* a man who goes round the streets with a LORRY or a horse and CART¹ buying things such as old clothes that people do not want

rag-bag /'rægbæg/ *n* [(of)] *often derog* a confused mixture



rag doll

rag doll /,rægdɒl/ *n* a soft DOLL made out of cloth. Rag dolls are known for being FLOPPY, and a very tired, or hurt, person is sometimes compared to one.

rage¹ /reɪdʒ/ *n* 1 [C;U] (a sudden feeling of) wild uncontrollable anger: *His suggestions have been greeted with rage by his opponents.* | *He flies into a rage every time I mention money.* | (fig.) *the rage of the storm* 2 [C] *infml* a very popular fashion: *the latest rage* | *Dresses like this used to be all the rage.* (=very fashionable)

rage² *v* [I] 1 [(about, against, at)] to be in a RAGE¹ (1) 2 to spread or continue with great force or violence: *a raging storm* | *The disease raged through the city.* | *The argument over the new airport is still raging.*

rag-ged /'rægdɪd/ *adj* 1 also **raggedy** *AmE*—old and torn: *a ragged shirt* 2 dressed in old torn clothes: *a ragged boy* 3 (of work) seeming unfinished and imperfect: *The musicians gave a ragged performance.* 4 with uneven edges or surfaces: *a ragged beard* 5 **ragged edge** *AmE* a difficult or dangerous position: *So many horrible things have happened to him recently that he feels like he's on the ragged edge.* — ~ly *adv*: *raggedly dressed* — ~ness *n* [U]

Rag-ged-y Ann /,rægdɪ 'æn/ *n* *AmE tdmk* a toy DOLL made from rags. She usu. has red hair and red spots on her cheeks. The male doll which looks like this is called **Raggedy Andy**.

rag-lan /'ræglən/ *adj* [A] (of an arm of a garment) joined with two sideways lines of sewing from the arm to the neck, instead of being sewn on at the shoulder: *a coat with raglan sleeves* | *a raglan sweater*

ra-gout /ræ'guː, 'ræguː||ræ'guː/ *n* [C;U] *Fr* (a) mixture of vegetables and pieces of meat boiled together; STEW

rags-to-rich-es /,ræɡz'tuːrɪtʃes/ *adj* [A] (of a story, a CAREER, etc.) about a person who comes from a poor background and becomes very successful and wealthy: *Her life is a rags-to-riches story.*

rag-time /'rægtaim/ *n* [U] a type of music, song, and dance of black US origin, popular in the 1920s, in which the strong note of the tune is syncopated (SYNCOPATE): *a rag-time band* | *a song in ragtime*

rag trade /'ræɡtreɪd/ [*the*] *infml* the garment industry, esp. the making and selling of women's clothes

raid¹ /reɪd/ *n* [(on)] 1 a quick attack on an enemy position, not to take control of the place but to do damage: *a bombing raid.* | *a cross-border raid* | (fig., humor) *The hungry children made a raid on the kitchen and took all the cakes.* —see also AIR RAID, DAWN RAID 2 a sudden visit by the police, in search of criminals or illegal goods: *As a result of the raid three people were charged with possessing illegal drugs.*

raid² *v* [I;T] to visit or attack (a place) on a raid: *Police raided the club.* — ~er *n*

rail¹ /reɪl/ *n* 1 [C] a fixed bar, esp. one to hang things on or for protection: *Keep your hand on the rail as you climb the steps.* | *a towel rail* 2 [C] either of the pair of metal bars fixed to the ground, along which a train runs: *Passengers must not cross the rails.* 3 [U] the railway: *We'll travel by rail.* | *rail travel* 4 **go off the rails** to start to behave a in a strange, confused way, as if mad b in a dishonest or criminal way

rail² *v* [T (IN, OFF)] to enclose or separate (a place) with rails: *They've railed off the garden.*

rail³ *v* [I (against, at)] *fml* to express angry disapproval or complaint: *railing against these injustices*

Rail-card /'reɪlkɑːd||-kɑːrd/ *n* a card that can be bought by certain groups of travellers, such as students and PENSIONERS and then used to buy British Rail tickets at lower prices than usual

rail-head /'reɪlhɛd/ *n* the end of a railway track

rail-ing /'reɪlɪŋ/ *n* [often *pl.*] any of a set of rails making up a fence: *The dog got its head stuck between the railings.* —compare BANISTER, HANDRAIL

rail-le-ry /'reɪləri/ *n* [U] *fml* friendly joking at someone's weakness; teasing (TEASE)

rail-road¹ /'reɪlrəʊd/ *n* *AmE* a railway

railroad² *v* [T] 1 [(into)] to hurry (someone) with unfair pressure: *The workers were railroaded into signing the agreement.* 2 [(through)] to pass (a law) or carry out (a plan) quickly in spite of opposition: *The chairman railroaded the plan through the committee.* 3 *AmE* to send (goods) by railway

rail-way /'reɪlweɪ/ *BrE* || **railroad** *AmE*— *n* 1 a track for trains: *a railway locomotive* 2 also **railways** *pl.*— a system of these tracks, with its engines, stations, etc.: *I got a job on the railway(s) as a booking clerk.*

railway line /'reɪlweɪ laɪn/ also **railway track** *BrE* || **railroad** *AmE*— *n* *BrE* a stretch of railway going between one place and another: *the London to Leeds railway line* | *a disused railway line*

rail-way-man /'reɪlweɪmən/ *n* -men /mən/ *BrE* a man who works on the railways

railway station /'reɪlweɪ stəʃən/ *BrE* || **railroad station** *AmE*— *n* a STATION (1)

rai-ment /'reɪmənt/ *n* [U] *lit* clothes

rain¹ /reɪn/ *n* 1 [U] water falling in separate drops from the clouds; the fall of these drops: *The rain fell continuously.* | *The crops need rain.* | *She went out in the rain without a coat.* | *It looks like rain.* (=there will probably be rain) | *a rain cloud* | (*BrE*) *It's pouring with rain.* (=raining very hard) 2 [C] a fall of rain of the stated type: *A heavy rain began to fall.* 3 [S+of] a thick fall: *a rain*

of arrows/questions **4 as right as rain** *infml* in perfect health: *Jane's been ill, but she's as right as rain now.* **5 (come) rain or shine** whatever happens; whether things are good or bad: *She's always there, come rain or shine.* —see also RAINS, ACID RAIN — ~less *adj*

▷ **USAGE** 1 Compare **rain**, **hail**, **snow**, and **sleet**. **Rain** is water falling from the clouds. **Hail** is rain which falls as hard, frozen drops. **Snow** is frozen rain that falls in soft, white pieces. **Sleet** is rain falling as snow but partly melted. 2 If it is raining very heavily we say it is **pouring**, but if it is raining very lightly we say it is **drizzling**. 3 A **shower** is a fall of rain that does not last very long. A **downpour** is a heavy fall of rain. A **blizzard** is a heavy fall of snow, with strong winds. ◀

rain² *v* 1 [*it*+I] (of rain) to fall: *It's raining.* | *It began to rain hard.* 2 [*I*+*adv*/*prep*; *T*+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to (cause to) fall like rain: *Tears rained down her cheeks.* | *Their rich uncle rained gifts on the children.* | *to rain (down) insults on someone* 3 **it never rains but it pours** saying when one thing goes wrong, everything starts to go wrong 4 **rain cats and dogs** *infml* to rain very heavily

rain sthg. ↔ **off** *BrE* || **rain** sthg. ↔ **out** *esp. AmE* — *phr v* [*T usu. pass.*] *infml* to cause (an event or activity) to stop because of rain: *The game was rained off.*

rain-bow /'reɪnbəʊ/ *n* an arch of different colours that sometimes appears in the sky after rain: (fig.) *They've painted their house (in) all the colours of the rainbow.* (=in many bright colours)

▷ **CULTURAL NOTE** People think of the rainbow in connection with the Bible story of the FLOOD, in which God sent a rainbow as a promise that there would not be another great flood like the one Noah had lived through. In another old story, a CROCK (= a large container) of gold (*AmE* pot of gold) is found where a rainbow meets the ground, and phrases like "at the rainbow's end" are sometimes used in speaking of people who find (or hope to find) what they always wanted, as if by magic. ◀

rainbow co-a-li-tion /'rɪnbəʊ kəʊəliˈʃən/ *n AmE* a group of people of different races who work together on social and political problems, esp. problems of CIVIL RIGHTS

rainbow guide /'rɪnbəʊ gaɪd/ *n* a member of an association, the youngest branch of the Guides, for training girls aged five to seven to be independent

Rainbow War-ri-or /'rɪnbəʊ wəˈrɪər/ [*the*] a ship belonging to the organization Greenpeace which is used to get information about actions which harm the environment, and to prevent them

rain check /'reɪn tʃek/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a ticket which can be used another time, given to the holder of a ticket for an event (such as a game, play, or CONCERT) which is not going to take place: *Rainchecks were issued to the fans and the game was rescheduled for tomorrow night.* | (fig.) "Can I buy you a cup of coffee?" "No thanks, but I'll take a rain-check." (=I'll accept your invitation at another time)

rain-coat /'reɪnkəʊt/ *n* a light coat worn to keep the wearer dry when it rains

rain-drop /'reɪndrɒp/ *n* a single drop of rain

rain-fall /'reɪnfɔːl/ *n* [C;U] the amount of rain or snow that falls in an area in a certain time: *This area has (a) very low rainfall.*

rain for-est /'reɪnfɔːst/ *n* a tropical forest with tall trees growing thickly together and with a high rainfall. People usu. think of the rain forest of South America, known for its many different SPECIES of plant and animal life. There is a lot of discussion about the destruction of the rain forest and the effect this has on the world CLIMATE, and many people feel that the rain forest must be preserved.

rain gauge /'reɪn gaʊd/ *n* an instrument for measuring the rainfall

Rai-ni-er /'reɪniər/ || *rəˈniər*, **Mount** a mountain in the W of Washington State, US, the highest mountain in the Cascade Range

Rai-ni-er III /'reɪniər ðə 'θɜːd/ || *rəˈniər ðə 'θɜːrd* (1923–) the Prince of Monaco, who married the American film actress Grace Kelly

rain-proof /'reɪnpʊːf/ *adj* able to keep rain out: *The roof is no longer rainproof.*

rains /reɪnz/ *n* [*the*+P] the season in tropical countries when rain falls continually; MONSOON: *The rains have started early this year.*

rain-storm /'reɪnstɔːm/ *n* a sudden heavy fall of rain

rain-wa-ter /'reɪnwɔːtə/ || *-wɔː-, -wɔː-/ n* [U] water that has fallen as rain

rain-wear /'reɪnwɛə/ *n* [U] clothes to be worn in the rain which do not allow water through

rain-y /'reɪni/ *adj* 1 having a lot of rain: *a very rainy day/place* | *the rainy season* (=the rains) 2 **for a rainy day** for a (future) time when money may be needed: *to save up for a rainy day.*

raise¹ /reɪz/ *v* [T] 1 to lift, push, or move upwards: *He raised the lid of the box.* | *I raised my hat.* | *She raised her finger to her lips as a sign for silence.* | *He raised the fallen child to its feet.* (=helped it to stand) —opposite **lower** 2 [(to)] **a** to increase in amount, size, etc.: *to raise the rent/the temperature/someone's pay* **b** to bring to a higher level, rank, or degree: *The builders raised the ceiling by six inches.* | *He was raised to the rank of captain.* | *to raise one's voice* (=shout) *in anger* | *I don't want to raise your hopes unduly.* (=make you too hopeful) —opposite **lower** 3 to collect together: *The king raised an army.* | *an appeal to raise money for victims of the disaster* 4 to produce, cause to grow or develop, and look after (living things): *I've raised five children.* | *They raise horses/wheat.* —compare REAR² (1) 5 to mention or introduce (a subject) for consideration: *There's an important point I want to raise.* | *to raise a question/issue* 6 **a** to make (a noise): *The men raised a cheer/a shout.* | *to raise the alarm* **b** to cause people to make (a noise): *Her joke raised a laugh.* 7 to cause to appear or exist: *The car raised a cloud of dust as it rushed past.* | *His long absence raised doubts/fears about his safety.* 8 *fml* to build (something high and noticeable): *to raise a monument* 9 to bring to an end (something that controls or forbids): *to raise a siege/an embargo* 10 to bring (a dead person) back to life 11 to make a higher BID than (a player in a game of cards): *I'll raise you!* 12 to get in touch by radio with: *I can't raise Melbourne.* 13 **raise a number to the power of another number** to multiply a number by itself the stated number of times: *2 raised to the power of 3 (=2³) is 8.* 14 **raise Cain/the devil/hell/the roof** *infml* to become very angry: *Mother will raise hell if you wake the baby.* 15 **raise one's eyebrows** (at) to express surprise, doubt, displeasure, or disapproval (at), (as if) by raising the two lines of hair above one's eyes: *There were a lot of raised eyebrows/a lot of eyebrows raised at the news of the minister's dismissal.* 16 **raise one's hand to/against someone** to make a movement to hit someone —see RISE¹ (USAGE)

raise² *n AmE* for RISE² (4): *a salary raise*

rais-er /'reɪzər/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) 1 a person who raises esp. money or animals: *a fund-raiser* | *a cattle-raiser* 2 a person who causes: *A fire-raiser is someone who sets fire to buildings on purpose.* —see also CURTAIN RAISER

rai-sin /'reɪzən/ *n* a sweet dried GRAPE used in cakes, etc.

rai-son d'et-re /'reɪzən 'detrə-||-zəʊn-/ *n Fr* a reason for existing

raj /rɑːdʒ/ [*the*] (*often cap.*) the period of British rule in India before 1947: *life during/under the Raj*

ra-jah, **raja** /'rɑːdʒə/ *n* an Indian ruler —see also RANEE

Raj-neesh /rɑːdʒ'niːʃ/, **Bag-wan** /'bɑːgwɑːn/ (1931–1990) an Indian religious man whose ideas came from a number of Eastern religions and who became well-known for owning 93 ROLLS ROYCES and encouraging his followers to have group sex

rake¹ /reɪk/ *n* 1 a gardening tool consisting of a row of points at the end of a long handle, used for making the soil level, gathering up dead leaves, etc. —see picture at GARDEN 2 any similar tool, such as one used to draw together the money on the table during a game of chance

rake² *v* 1 [*I*; *T*] to gather, loosen or level with a rake: *He raked the garden paths.* | *She raked over the soil to loosen the weeds.* | *They raked up the dead leaves.* 2 [*I*+*adv*/*prep*] to search carefully by turning over a pile of things: *I'll rake about/around among my papers and see if I can find it.* 3 [*T* (*with*)] to examine or fire at (an area) in a continuous sweeping movement along its whole length: *The police raked the hillside with powerful binoculars but did not see the escaped prisoner.* 4 **rake someone over the coals** *AmE* for haul someone over the coals (HAUL¹ (4)) **rake** sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [*T*] *infml* to earn as income (a lot of money): *He must be raking in at least £800 a week!* | *They're raking it in!*

rake sthg. ↔ **out phr v** [T] *infml* to find by searching: *The reporter had raked out some interesting facts.* | *I'll try and rake out something for you to wear.*

rake sthg. ↔ **up phr v** [T] *infml* 1 to remember and talk about (something that should be forgotten): *Don't rake up that old quarrel again.* 2 to collect together with difficulty: *Can we rake up some players for the team/enough money for the rent?*

rake³ *n* *old use* a man, esp. rich and of high social class, who has led a wild life with regard to drink and women

rake⁴ *n* [S] the angle of a slope: *the rake of the stage/of a ship's funnels* — **rake** *v* [I;T] : *the raked wings of an aircraft*

rake-off /'·-/ *n infml* a usu. dishonest share of profits: *The taxi-driver gets a rake-off from the hotel if he takes tourists there.*

rak-ish /'reɪkɪʃ/ *adj* 1 wild and irresponsible, like (that of) a RAKE³; DISSOLUTE: *He's led a rakish life.* 2 showing a cheerful informal self-confidence; JAUNTY: *She wore her cap at a rakish angle.* (=sideways on her head) — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Ra-leigh¹ /'ræli, 'rɔː-/ a British company which makes bicycles

Sir Walter Raleigh



Raleigh², Sir Wal-ter /'wɔːltə/ (1552?–1618) an English traveller and HISTORIAN who was a favourite of Elizabeth I. He is known as the person who introduced the potato and tobacco into Britain and who put his CLOAK over a PUDDLE so that Elizabeth I could walk over it.

ral-len-tan-do /,rælən'tændəʊ, ,rælən'taɪndəʊ/ *n, adj, adv* -dos (a piece of music) getting slower

ral-ly¹ /'ræli/ *v* 1 [I;T (to)] to come or bring together (again) for a shared purpose or effort: *Her supporters rallied to her defence when she was attacked by her critics.* | *The general rallied his tired soldiers and they drove the enemy back.* | *The rail workers have rallied support for the strike from other unions.* 2 [I] to return to a former good state, e.g. after illness or difficulty: *He soon rallied after the shock of his father's death.* | *Prices on the stock market rallied this afternoon after earlier falls.*

rally round *phr v* [I] *infml* (esp. of a group) to come to someone's help at a time of difficulty: *Her friends all rallied round when she was ill.*

rally² *n* 1 a large esp. political public meeting — compare DEMONSTRATION; see colour picture on page 950 2 a motor race over public roads 3 (in tennis and similar games) a long struggle to gain a point, with each player hitting the ball again and again over the net 4 an act of rallying

rally³ *v* [T (about, on)] *old use* to make fun of (a person) in a friendly way; TEASE: *They rallied him about/on his strange appearance.*

ram¹ /ræm/ *n* 1 an adult male sheep that can be the father of young — compare EWE 2 a BATTERING RAM 3 a machine that repeatedly drops or pushes a weight onto or into something, or that uses water pressure for lifting

ram² *v* -mm- [T] 1 to run or drive into (something) very hard: *His car rammed mine.* 2 [+obj+adv/prep] to force

into place with heavy pressure: *I rammed down the earth round the newly planted bush.* | (fig.) *The terrorist attack rammed home the need for tighter security.* (=forced people to recognize this need) 3 **ram something down someone's throat** to force an unwanted idea or plan on someone: *I hate the way he rams his political views down everyone's throat.*

RAM¹ /,ɑːr eɪ 'em/ *abbrev. for* ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

RAM² /ræm/ Random Access Memory; a memory in a computer system, used as a temporary store for information which can be changed by the user. It can be searched in any order the user likes.

Ram-a-dan /'ræmədæn, -dɑːn, ,ræmə'dɑːn, -'dæn/ *n* [U] the ninth month of the Muslim year, during which no food or drink may be taken between sunrise and sunset. The Muslim year is based on the movements of the moon, and Ramadan takes place at different times each year.

Ra-ma-krish-na /,rɑːmə'krɪʃnə/ (1834–86) an Indian HINDU religious man who helped to change people's thinking by saying that all religions are of equal value because they are all different paths to God

Ram-bert Dance Com-pa-ny /,rɒmbeə 'dɑːns ,kɑmpəni/ rɑːm,bear 'dæns-/ [the] a BALLET company based in London and known for performing modern ballet (from Marie Rambert, dancer and teacher, who started the company in 1930)

ram-ble¹ /'ræmbəl/ *v* [I] 1 [(ABOUT, through, among)] to go on a ramble: *They rambled through the woods.* 2 [(ON, about)] *usu. derog* to talk or write at great length in a disordered wandering way: *The old lady was rambling (on) about her youth.* 3 (of a plant) to grow loosely in all directions: *a rambling rose* — see also RAMBLER (2)

ramble² *n* a (long) walk for enjoyment, often in the country: *We went for/on a ramble through the woods.*

ram-bler /'ræmblə/ *n* 1 a person who rambles 2 a rose bush that rambles

Rambler a popular small car once made by the American Motor Company

Ramblers' As-so-ci-a-tion /'·...·-/ [the] a British association which supports ramblers and makes sure public footpaths are kept open

ram-bling /'ræmblɪŋ/ *adj* 1 *usu. derog* (of speech or writing) disordered and wandering: *a long and very rambling letter* 2 (of a house, street, etc.) of irregular shape and covering a large area: *a rambling old house*

Ram-bo /'ræmbəʊ/ *n* a character in several films played by Sylvester Stallone. He is strong and violent and is always seen fighting against evil forces, esp. COMMUNISM. Though very popular, educated people do not take him seriously: *There is no need for Rambo-style politics here.*

Sylvester Stallone as Rambo



ram-bunc-tious /ræm'bʌŋkʃəs/ *adj* humor (of a person or behaviour) noisy, uncontrollable, and full of life; BOISTEROUS — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

ram-e-kin /'ræmkɪŋ, 'ræmkɪn/ *n* a small container in which a quantity of food large enough for one person can be baked and served

ram-ie /'ræmi/ *n* a plant from which a type of cloth is made: *a ramie-and-cotton blouse*

ram-i-fi-ca-tion /,ræmɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [usu. pl.] *fml* 1 a branch of a system that has many parts; part of a network: *the ramifications of a business/of a railway system* 2 any of a large number of results that follow from an action or decision; IMPLICATION: *What are the ramifications of our decision to join the union?*

ram-i-fy /'ræmɪfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) branch out in all directions; form (into) a network

ramp /ræmp/ *n* 1 an artificial slope that connects two levels: *Drive the car up the ramp.* 2 BrE a place in a road that is higher or lower than the main road surface, esp. a raised part built to force people to drive slowly 3 AmE for SLIP ROAD

ram-page¹ /ræm'peɪdʒ, 'ræmpeɪdʒ/ *v* [I (ABOUT, through)]

to rush about wildly or angrily: *The elephants rampaged through the forest.*

ram-page² /'ræmpeɪdʒ, ræm'peɪdʒ/ *n* [(the) S] excited and violent behaviour: *Football crowds went on the rampage through the town, breaking windows and damaging cars.* — **pageous** /ræm'peɪdʒəs/ *adj*

ram-pant /'ræmpənt/ *adj* **1** (of crime, disease, wrong beliefs, etc.) widespread and impossible to control: *Sickness was rampant in the area.* | *rampant lawlessness* **2** (of a plant) growing and spreading uncontrollably **3** [after *n*] *tech* (of an animal drawn in HERALDRY) standing on the back legs with the front legs raised as if to strike: *two lions rampant* — **~ly** *adv*

ram-part /'ræmpɑ:t||-pɑ:rt/ also **ramparts** *pl.* — *n* a wide bank of earth or a stone wall built to protect a fort or city esp. in former times

Ramp-ton /'ræmptən/ a heavily-guarded British prison for men who have committed (COMMIT) serious crimes and are thought to be violent and dangerous

ram-rod /'ræmrɒd||-rɑ:d/ *n* a stick for pushing the GUNPOWDER into an old-fashioned gun or for cleaning a small gun: *He may be 82, but the old general still has a back as straight/stiff as a ramrod.*

Ram-sey /'ræmzi/, **Sir Alf** /ælf/ (1920–) an English footballer who later became a football manager and was manager of the England team when it won the World Cup in 1966

ram-shack-le /'ræmfækəl/ *adj* (of a building or vehicle) badly made or needing repair; falling to pieces: *a ram-shackle old house*

ran /ræn/ *past tense of RUN*

ranch /rɑ:ntʃ||ræntʃ/ *n* **1** (in the western US and Canada) a very large farm where sheep, cattle, or horses are bred **2** *AmE* a farm that produces the stated thing: *a fruit/chicken ranch* — see also **meanwhile**, **back at the ranch** (MEANWHILE) **3** RANCH HOUSE (1): *a 3-bed ranch with 2-car garage*

ranch-er /'rɑ:ntʃə||'ræn-/ *n* a person who owns or works on a ranch: *a cattle rancher*

ranch house /'ræn- / *n* *AmE* **1** a house built on one level, usu. with a roof that does not slope much **2** a house on a ranch in which the rancher and his/her family live — see colour picture on page 161

ran-cid /'rænsɪd/ *adj* (of oily food or its taste or smell) not fresh; tasting or smelling unpleasant: *rancid butter* | *This smells/tastes/has gone rancid.* — **~ity** /ræn'sɪdʒɪti/ *n* [U]

ran-cour *BrE* || **-cor** *AmE* /'ræŋkə||'ræn-/ *n* [U] *fml* a feeling of bitter unforgiving hatred: *Can we not conduct these negotiations without rancour?* — **corous** *adj* — **corously** *adv*

rand /rænd/ *n* **rand** the standard money unit of South Africa, divided into 100 cents

R and A /,ɑ:r ənd 'eɪ/ [(the) ROYAL AND ANCIENT

R and B /,ɑ:r ən 'bi:/ *n* [U] RHYTHM AND BLUES

R and D /,ɑ:r ən 'di:/ *n* [U] research and development; the part of esp. a business concerned with studying new ideas, planning new products, etc.: *The company has a large R and D budget.*

ran-dom¹ /'rændəm/ *adj* without any plan, aim, or pattern: *He fired a few random shots.* | *a random choice* | *a random sample of people* (=people chosen in such a way that anyone is equally likely to be chosen) — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

random² *n* **at random** in a random way; aimlessly: *The people for the experiment were chosen completely at random.*

random ac-cess mem-o-ry /,ræn-dəm 'mem-ə-ri/ *n* see **RAM**²

R and R /,ɑ:r ənd 'ɑ:r/ *n* [U] *AmE* rest and relaxation; a holiday given to people in the armed forces to allow them to relax after a long time of hard work or during wartime: *a week's R and R in Seoul*

rand-y /'rændi/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* (of a person or his/her feelings) full of sexual desire — **iness** *n* [U]

ra-nee, **rani** /'rɑ:ni, rɑ:'ni:/ *n* a female RAJAH or the wife of a RAJAH

rang /ræŋ/ *past tense of RING³*

range¹ /reɪndʒ/ *n* **1** [S (of)] the (measurable) limits within which variable amounts or qualities are included: *a*

country with a wide range of temperature | *Several cars are available within this price range.* | *I'm afraid that high note is beyond my range.* | *a wide range of different options* **2** [S (of)] the limits within which something operates, exists, or is effective; SCOPE: *matters which lie outside the range of this inquiry* | *a medium-range weather forecast* (=covering the future, but not the distant future) **3** [S;U] the distance at which one can see or hear: *Shout as soon as she comes within range.* **4** [S (of);U] the distance that a gun can fire: *a hunting rifle with a range of 200 metres* | *He shot the rabbit at short/close/point-blank range.* | *He's still out of/beyond/in/within range (of my gun).* **5** [C] an area where shooting is practised, or where MISSILES are tested: *a rifle range* **6** [C (of)] a connected line of mountains, hills, etc.: *a high mountain range* **7** [the] (in N America) a wide stretch of grassy land where cattle feed **8** [C (of)] a set of different objects of the same kind, esp. for sale in a shop: *a complete range of gardening tools* **9** *AmE* a HOB (1) and OVEN combined together for use in a home kitchen: *a new electric range* **10** [C] an old-fashioned iron fireplace for cooking, built into a chimney in a kitchen — see also **FREE-RANGE**

range² *v* **1** [I+prep;not in progressive forms] to vary between limits; reach from one limit to another: *The children's ages range from 5 to 15/between 5 and 15.* | *a wide-ranging programme of reforms* **2** [I+adv/prep, esp. over;T] *esp. lit* to wander freely: *We ranged (over) the hills and valleys.* | (fig.) *Our conversation ranged over many topics.* **3** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put in position or order, esp. in lines or rows; arrange: *She ranged the goods neatly in the shop window.*

range find-er /'ræŋdʒɪŋ||'ræŋdʒɪŋ/ *n* an instrument for finding the distance of an object when shooting or taking photographs

rang-er /'reɪndʒə||'ræŋ-/ *n* **1** the keeper of a forest or area of country, such as a NATIONAL PARK **2** (in N America) a policeman who rides through country areas to see that the law is kept — see also **LONE RANGER** **3** (in the US) a COMMANDO **4** an older member of the GUIDES¹ (5), aged from 14 to 19

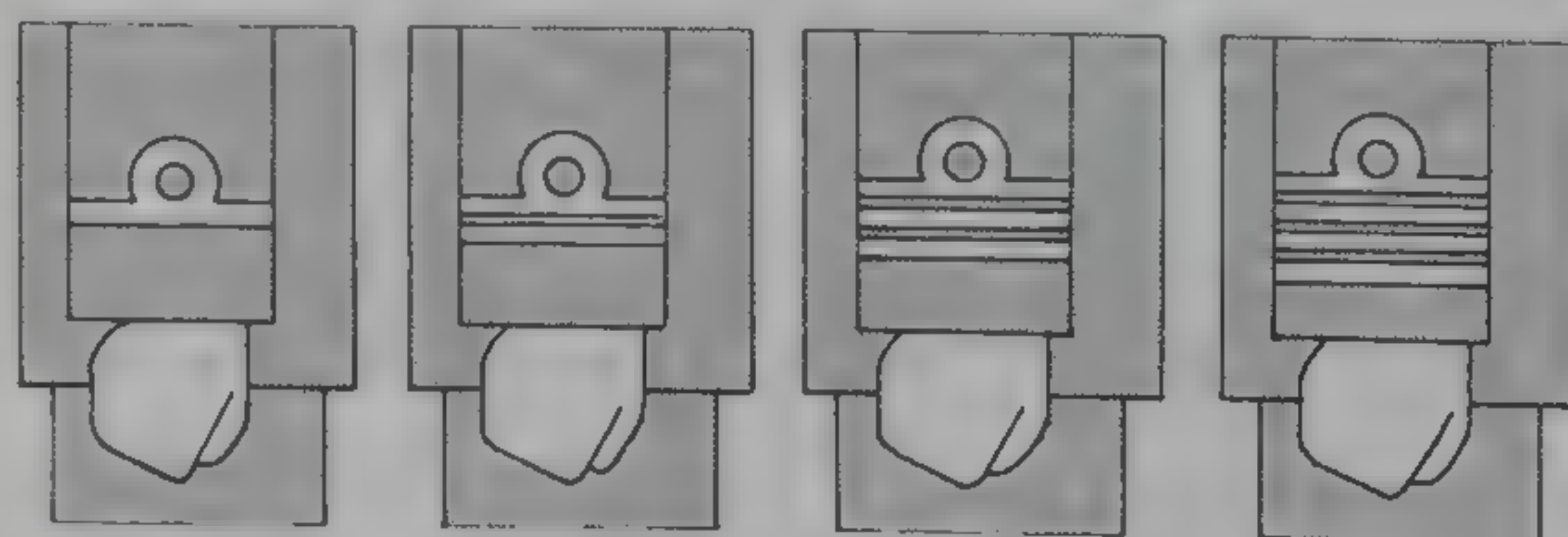
Range Rov-er /'ræŋdʒə||'ræŋ-/ *n* *tdmk* a large expensive car made by the Rover group, which can be driven on rough ground. Range Rovers are popular with wealthy farmers and upper-class people who live in the country. Many people think that a Range Rover is a STATUS SYMBOL. — compare **LAND ROVER**

Ran-gers /'reɪndʒə||'ræŋ-/ also **Glasgow Rangers** *fml* — a Scottish football team based in Glasgow. There is much competition between Rangers and Celtic, the other main Glasgow football team.

Ran-go-on /ræŋ'gu:n/ the former name for **Yangon**, the capital city of Myanmar (Burma)

Ran-jit Singh /,rændʒɪt 'sɪŋ/, **Maharaja** (1780–1839) the former ruler of Lahore, who established the Sikh kingdom of the Punjab

rank



sub-lieutenant lieutenant commander captain

rank¹ /ræŋk/ *n* **1** [C;U] a level of relative value, ability, importance, etc., on a scale, esp. the official position someone holds in the army, navy, etc.: *to attain the rank of general* | *He's above me in rank.* | *a writer of the first/front/top rank* (=among the best) **2** [C;U] (high) social class: *a person of rank* | *people of all ranks* **3** [C] a line of soldiers, policemen, etc., standing side by side **4** [C (of)] a line of people or things: *Rank upon rank of ancient elms stretched away to the horizon.* — see also **TAXI RANK** **5** **keep/break rank(s)** (of soldiers) to stay/fail to stay in line: *The enemy broke rank(s) and ran.* **6** **close ranks** (of a group of people) to join together to face difficulties: *When their business failed, the family closed ranks and worked to pay off the debts.* **7** **pull rank** *infml* to use the advantage of one's higher position, perhaps

unfairly: *When my assistant became obstinate I had to pull rank (on him) and insist that he obey.* —see also RANKS

rank² *v* 1 [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to have or regard as having a certain rank or relative position: *This result ranks as one of their most successful election performances of the last ten years.* | *a tennis player who is ranked third in the world* (=officially regarded as the third-best player) | *a high-ranking diplomat* 2 [T often pass.] to arrange in regular order: *The cups were ranked neatly on the shelf.* 3 [T] AmE (of an officer) to be of higher rank than: *A general ranks a captain.*

rank³ *adj* 1 (of a plant) too thick and widespread: *rank grass* 2 (of smell or taste) very strong and unpleasant: *rank tobacco* 3 [A] (esp. of bad things) complete: *He's a rank beginner at the job.* | *It was rank bad luck.* —~ly *adv* —~ness *n* [U]

rank and file /,ræŋkənd'faɪl/ *n* [the+sing./pl. v] 1 the ordinary members of an organization as opposed to the leaders: *The rank and file is/are getting discontented.* | *the rank-and-file members of a trade union* 2 the ordinary soldiers who are not officers

rank-er /'ræŋkə/ *n* BrE an officer who has risen from being an ordinary soldier

rank-ing /'ræŋkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] AmE (of an officer) of highest rank: *Who's the ranking officer here?*

rank-le /'ræŋkəl/ *v* [I (with)] to continue to be remembered with bitterness and anger: *Their defeat still rankles (with them).*

Rank Or-ga-ni-sa-tion /'ræŋk'ɔ:ɡənɪ'seɪʃən/ [the] a highly successful British organization started by Joseph Rank (1888–1972) which began in the film business and moved into hotel ownership and other profitable areas

ranks /ræŋks/ *n* 1 [P (of)] *pomp or humor* the stated class or group: *She's joined the ranks of the* (=become) *unemployed.* | *a brilliant speech that helped to swell* (=increase) *the ranks of his supporters* 2 the/other ranks ordinary soldiers below the rank of SERGEANT: *He was reduced to the ranks as a punishment for drinking.* | *an officer who has risen from the ranks*

ran-sack /'rænsæk/ *v* [T] 1 to search (a place) thoroughly and roughly, causing disorder: *The police ransacked the house, looking for drugs.* 2 to go through (a place) stealing and causing widespread damage: *Enemy soldiers ransacked the town.*

ran-som¹ /'rænsəm/ *n* 1 a sum of money paid to free a prisoner who is being held illegally: *We had to pay a large ransom.* 2 hold someone to ransom to keep someone prisoner so as to demand payment: *The terrorists kidnapped the boy and held him to ransom.* | (fig.) *We will not allow these strikers to hold the country to ransom.*

ransom² *v* [T] to set (someone) free by paying a ransom —~er *n*

Ran-some /'rænsəm/, Arthur (1884–1967) an English writer best known for his books for children, esp. *Swallows and Amazons*, about children's sailing adventures

rant /rænt/ *v* [I (ON)] *usu. derog* to talk in a loud excited way, using grand but meaningless phrases: *The priest ranted (on) about the devil.* | *He's been ranting and raving about the way they insulted him.* —rant *n* [U]

Ran-tzen /'ræntsən/, Es-ther /'estə/ (1940–) a British woman who produces and introduces television programmes for the BBC programme *That's Life*. More recently, she has worked with the CHARITY Childline to help children who have been abused (ABUSE).

rap¹ /ræp/ *n* 1 [C] (the sound of) a quick light blow: *I heard a rap on the door.* | *The teacher gave me a rap over the head with her pencil.* | (fig.) *The newspaper received an official rap over the knuckles from the palace for the way it reported the story about the princess.* (=angry disapproval was expressed) 2 [S *usu. in negatives*] *infml* the least bit: *I don't care a rap for him.* 3 [U] a type of POP³ music in which the words of a song are spoken in time with music with a steady beat. Rap is performed esp. by black people. 4 beat the rap AmE *sl* to escape punishment 5 take the rap (for) *sl* to receive the punishment (for someone else's crime)

rap² *v* -pp- 1 [I+prep; T] to strike quickly and lightly: *Someone was rapping loudly at the door/on the table.* | *She rapped her pen on the table and called for silence.* 2 [T] BrE (esp. in newspapers) to speak to or about with severe

disapproval: *The judge rapped the police for their treatment of the witness.* 3 [T (OUT)] to say sharply and suddenly: *The officer rapped out an order.* 4 [I] *old-fash sl, esp. AmE* to talk; CHAT 5 [I] to speak the words of a song to music with a steady beat —see also RAP¹ (3)

ra-pa-cious /rə'peɪʃəs/ *adj fml* taking everything one can, esp. by force: *a rapacious band of robbers* —~ly *adv* —~ness, -city /rə'pæsɪti/ *n* [U]

rape¹ /reɪp/ *v* [T] (esp. of a man) to have sex with (someone, esp. a woman) against their will. Rape is illegal in most countries. In the past in Britain, a man could not be charged with raping his wife, because he had CONJUGAL RIGHTS (=the right to have sex with his wife). However, rape within marriage is now a crime.

rape² *n* [C; U] 1 (a case of) the crime of raping someone: *a rape victim* | *to commit rape* —see also RAPIST 2 *fml* spoiling: *the rape of our beautiful forests*

rape³ also **canola** AmE *n* [U] a European plant with yellow flowers, grown as animal food and for the oil produced from its seeds

Raph-a-el /'ræfeɪəl/ (1483–1520) an Italian painter and ARCHITECT whose full name was **Raffaello Santi** or **Sanzio**, one of the leading figures of the Italian RENAISSANCE

Raphael, Sally Jessy /'dʒesi/ (1943–) an American radio and television personality whose programmes are mostly of interest to women

rap-id /'ræpɪd/ *adj* happening, moving, or doing something at great speed; fast: *The patient made a rapid recovery.* | *They asked their questions in rapid succession.* | *The school promises rapid results in language learning.* | *a rapid growth in population* —~ly *adv*: *the rapidly changing world of computer technology* —~ity /rə'pɪdɪti/, ~ness /'ræpɪdnəs/ *n* [U]

rapid eye move-ment /'ræpɪd'ɪmʊvmənt/ *n* [U] rapid movement of the eyes during sleep, thought to happen during periods when the sleeper is dreaming

rapid-fire /'ræpɪd'faɪə/ *adj* [A] 1 (of a gun) able to fire shots quickly one after the other 2 (of questions, jokes, etc.) spoken quickly one after the other

rapid re-ac-tion force /'ræpɪd'reɪkʃən'fɔ:rs/ *n* a military force formed to act quickly in answer to a sudden threat to peace

rap-ids /'ræpɪdz/ also **whitewater** AmE— *n* [P] a part of a river where the water moves very fast over rocks: *The canoe shot the rapids.* (=passed quickly over them)

rapid tran-sit /'ræpɪd'trænzɪt/ *adj* AmE of a way of moving people around a city quickly, such as by UNDERGROUND³, trains, etc.: *Los Angeles is building a subway downtown as part of its rapid transit system.*

ra-pi-er /'reɪpiə/ *n* a long thin sharp two-edged sword —see picture at SWORD

rap-ine /'ræpaɪn/ || 'ræpɪn/ *n* [U] *lit* the carrying away of property by force; PLUNDER

rap-ist /'reɪpɪst/ *n* a man guilty of RAPE² (1)

rap-pel /ræ'pel/ *v* [I] AmE for ABSEIL -rappel *n*

rap-port /ræ'pɔ:rt/ *n* [S; U (between, with)] close agreement and understanding: *to have/develop a good rapport with someone*

rap-proche-ment /ræ'prɒʃmənt, ræ'prəʊf-||, ræ'prəʊf'mɑ:ŋ/ *n* [(between, with)] *fml, Fr* a coming together again in friendship of former enemies: *At last there are signs of a rapprochement between our two countries.*

rap-scal-lion /ræp'skæljən/ *n* *old use or humor* a worthless man or boy whom one is rather fond of

rap sheet /'ræp'ʃi:t/ *n* AmE *sl* a paper which has a list of someone's criminal record

rapt /ræpt/ *adj* giving one's whole mind; engrossed (ENGROSS): *We listened to her amazing story with rapt attention.* —~ness *n* [U]

rap-ture /'ræptʃə/ also **raptures** *pl.*— *n* [U (at, about, over)] *fml* great joy and delight: *She went into/was in raptures at the news.* —turous *adj*: *a rapturous welcome* | *rapturous applause* —~tuously *adv*

Ra-pun-zel /rə'pʌnzəl/ a female character in a FAIRY TALE who is kept locked up at the top of a tower but who is freed when she lets down her very long hair through the window and a HANDSOME PRINCE climbs up —see picture on page 1088

rare¹ /reə/ *adj* 1 extremely unusual or uncommon: *the preservation of rare species* | *It's very rare for him to be*

late. | a rare disease **2** (esp. of air) thin; light: *the rare air of the mountains* **3** [A] *infml* unusually good or extreme: *You gave them a rare fright.* | *We had a rare old time at the party.* —see also RARELY, RARITY — ~ness *n* [U]

▷ **USAGE** Compare **rare** and **scarce**. Things that are uncommon, and perhaps valuable, are **rare**: *a rare bird/coin*. Ordinary useful things that we have not got enough of are **scarce**: *Potatoes were scarce last winter.* We can use **rare**, but not **scarce**, about time: *one of my rare* (=not happening often) *visits to Paris*. Note that **rarely** means “not often” while **scarcely** means “hardly, only just”. ◀

rare² *adj* (of meat, esp. STEAK) lightly cooked —compare WELL-DONE

rare-bit /'reəbɪt/ *n* [U] see WELSH RAREBIT

rare earth /,rɪə'θɜː/ *n tech* any of a group of rare metal substances (ELEMENTS)

rare-fied /'reərɪfaɪd/ *adj* **1** (of air in high places) light; thin, with less oxygen than usual **2** *often humor* limited to people who are special in some way; EXALTED: *He moves in very rarefied circles; his friends are all lords.*

rare-ly /'reəli/ *adv* not at all often: *I have rarely seen (fml) Rarely have I seen such a beautiful sunset.* | *He rarely, if ever, goes out.* | *a rarely-shown silent movie* —compare SCARCELY

▷ **USAGE** The word order of a sentence beginning with **rarely** or **seldom** is like that of a question: *Rarely/Seldom have I heard such a strange story.* —see also NEVER (USAGE) ◀

raring /'reərɪŋ/ *adj* [F+to-v] *infml* very eager: *The children were raring to get out into the snow.* | *They were raring to go.* (=eager to start)

rari-ty /'reərɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the state or quality of being RARE¹ (1): *These stamps have great rarity value.* **2** [C] something uncommon: *People who bake their own bread have become a rarity/something of a rarity.*

ras-cal /'rɑːskəl/ *n* **1** a dishonest person **2** *humor* a person, esp. a child, who plays tricks or misbehaves but is regarded with fondness: *You little rascal! Where have you hidden my shoes?* — ~ly *adj* old use: *a rascally trick*

rash¹ /ræʃ/ *adj* foolishly confident and not thinking enough of the results: *a rash decision* | *I promised in a rash moment to buy the children a pet monkey.* | *It was rather rash of you to agree to lend them your car.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

rash² *n* a set of red spots on the skin, caused by illness: *a heat rash* | *He came out in* (=became covered with) *a rash today.* | (fig.) *a rash of* (=a sudden large number of) *complaints/accidents*

rash-er /'ræʃə/ *n* BrE a thin piece of BACON or HAM —see picture at PIECE

rasp¹ /rɑːsp/ *v* **1** [T] to rub with something rough: *The cat's tongue rasped my hand.* **2** [I (on, upon); T] (of a sound) to have a rough annoying effect (on): *Her loud voice rasped (on) the sick man's nerves.* | *a rasping sound/accents* — ~ingly *adv*

rasp² *n* **1** [C] a metal tool for shaping wood, metal, etc.; rough FILE¹ **2** [S] a sound that might be made by this tool: *The rasp of metal on stone could be heard.*

rasp-ber-ry /'rɑːzbəri/ *n* **1** a soft sweet usu. red berry (or its bush): *raspberries and cream* | *raspberry jam* —see picture at BERRY **2** *sl* a rude sound made by putting one's tongue out and blowing: *He blew a raspberry at the General.*

Ras-pu-tin /ræ'spjuːtɪn/, **Gri-go-ri E-fim-o-vich** /grɪ'gɔːri e'fɪməvɪtʃ/ (1872–1916) a Russian holy man from Siberia who had great influence over Czarina Alexandra and, through her, over Czar Nicholas. Rasputin caused many ministers to be dismissed, while some people connected with him gained high government positions. He was finally assassinated (ASSASSINATE).

Rapunzel



ras-ta-fa-ri-an /,ræstə'feəriən/ also **ras-ta** /'ræstə/ *n* (often *cap.*) a follower of a religion from Jamaica which teaches that black West Indians will return to Africa and that Haile Selassie, the former EMPEROR of Ethiopia, is to be worshipped. Rastafarians often wear their hair in DREADLOCKS. — ~ism *n*

ras-ta-man /'ræstəmæn/ *n* *infml* -men /men/ a male rastafarian

rat¹ /ræt/ *n* **1** a long-tailed animal related to but larger than the mouse: *rat poison* | *He looks like a drowned rat.* (=wet and cold and uncomfortable)

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Rats are generally feared and disliked, as they are thought to be dirty and to spread diseases. — see picture at RODENT ◀

2 *infml* a worthless disloyal person: *But you promised to help us, you rat!* **3** like rats deserting a sinking ship a phrase used when people are leaving a person or company that is having a lot of difficulties. Like the rats on an old ship, they want to leave before it finally sinks. **4** you dirty rat *quote* a slightly changed phrase used as an insult by James Cagney in an American film —see also RAT RACE, RATS, RAT TRAP, smell a rat (SMELL¹)

rat² *v* -tt- [I] **1** [(on)] *infml* to act in a disloyal way; break a promise: *They said they'd help but they've ratted (on us).* **2** to hunt rats: *The dogs went ratting.*

rat-a-tat /,ræt ə 'tæt/ also **rat-a-tat-tat** /,ræt ə tæt 'tæt/ *n* [S] RAT-TAT

rat-a-tou-ille /,rætə'tuːi, -'twɪz/ *n* [U] a French dish of vegetables esp. onions, tomatoes, COURGETTES, and AUBERGINES, cooked in oil

rat-bag /'rætbæg/ *n* BrE & AustrE *derog sl* an unpleasant or worthless person

rat-eh-et /'rætʃɛt/ *n* a toothed wheel or bar provided with a piece of metal that fits between its teeth to allow movement in one direction but not the other, used in machinery

rate¹ /reɪt/ *n* **1** [(of)] a quantity such as value, cost, or speed, measured by its relation to some other amount: *The birth rate is the number of births compared to the size of the population.* | *a fall in the rate of inflation* | *We drove at a steady rate.* | *The drug has a high success rate in curing the disease.* **2** a charge or payment fixed according to a standard scale: *The big banks have put up interest rates for borrowers to 15%.* | *They're demanding higher rates of pay.* | *What's the going rate* (=the usual or average rate, e.g. of pay) *for computer programmers?* | *an hourly rate of £10* (=a payment or charge of £10 for each hour) —see also BANK RATE **3** [usu. *pl.*] a local tax formerly paid in Britain by owners of buildings, for locally provided services. It was replaced by the COMMUNITY CHARGE —see also RATE-CAP **4** at this/that rate if events continue in the same way as now/then: *At this rate we won't be able to afford a holiday.* **5** BrE at a rate of knots very fast: *He's getting through the ironing at a rate of knots.* **6** -rate of the stated level of quality: *a first-rate* (=very good) *performer* | *a very second-rate team* —see also at any rate (ANY¹)

rate² *v* **1** [T] [+obj+adv/prep] to have the stated opinion about; value: *The company seem to rate her very highly.* | *She is generally rated as one of the best modern poets.* **2** [T] to deserve: *an unimportant news story that didn't rate a mention on the national news* **3** AmE to be thought very good, valuable, etc.: *George liked the film but didn't think it rated.* **4** [T *usu. pass.*] BrE to fix a RATE¹ (3) on (a building): *a house rated at £500* **5** [T] to give a letter to (a film) showing who may see it: *The film has been rated PG.*

rate³ *v* [I; T] *old use* to speak angrily (to); BERATE

rate-a-ble val-ue, ratable value /,reɪtəbəl 'væljuː/ also **RV** *abbrev.* — *n* BrE a value formerly given to a building for the purpose of calculating the RATE¹ (3) to be charged: *What's the rateable value of this shop?*

rate-cap /'rɪtəp/ *v* -pp- [T] BrE (of a central government) to

rastafarian



limit the amount of **RATE**¹ (3) that could be charged by (a local council) — **capping** *n* [U]

rate of exchange /,rə'tʃeɪŋ/ *n* the EXCHANGE RATE

rate of re-turn /,rə'tʃeɪŋ/ *n* a company's profit for a year expressed as a PERCENTAGE of the capital employed during the year

rate-pay-er /'reɪtpeɪə/ *n* *BrE* a person who pays for locally provided services, formerly by paying a **RATE**¹ (3) and after that by paying the COMMUNITY CHARGE: *The ratepayers always have to pay for the council's mistakes.*

rate sup-port grant /,rə'tʃeɪŋ/ *n* *BrE* money paid by the government to a LOCAL AUTHORITY which forms part of the money that the local authority can spend

ra-ther /'ræðə/ *predeterminer, adv* **1** to some degree; **QUITE** (2): *It's rather cold today. | a rather cold day | rather a cold day | rather cold weather | She's driving rather fast. | These shoes are rather too big. | I'm feeling rather better. | It's rather like a potato. | She's getting rather fat. | It's rather a pity. | He earns rather a lot of money. | It rather surprised me. | I rather like him. | I rather stupidly agreed to do it. (=I agreed to do it, and this was rather stupid) —see MORE (USAGE) **2** (often with **would** and sometimes with **had**) more willingly: *I'd rather play tennis than swim. | "Have a drink?" "No thanks, I'd rather not." | Rather than cause trouble, he left. **3** more exactly; more truly: *He came home very late last night, or rather very early this morning. | The job will take months rather than weeks. **4** to a greater degree or with better reasons: *The parents should be blamed rather than the children. | It was what he meant rather than what he said that annoyed me. | The decision was taken for political rather than military reasons. **5** infml, esp. *BrE* (used as an answer) yes, certainly: "Would you like a swim?" "Rather!"****

▷ **USAGE** Compare fairly and rather. Fairly is often used for qualities that are neither good nor bad: *The weather was fairly cold (=cold, but not very cold) | I was driving fairly fast (=fast, but not very fast).* Rather is stronger than fairly, and often suggests that a quality is bad or unsuitable: *It's rather cold (=colder than I would like) | I was driving rather fast (=too fast for the conditions on the road).* But British speakers may use rather about things they like very much: *I was rather pleased when I won the prize.* The use of rather in senses 1 and 5 above is rare in American English, and sounds typically British to most Americans. They would use fairly, somewhat, or infml pretty instead for sense 1, and a simple answer such as "yes" for sense 5. —see also FAIRLY (USAGE)◀

Rather, Dan (1931–) an American reader of the news for CBS television

rat-i-fy /'ræɪfai/ *v* [T] *fml* to approve (a written agreement) and make it official by signing it: *The heads of the two governments met to ratify the treaty. —fication* /,ræɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

rat-ing /'reɪtɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] the position that someone or something has on a scale of values or amounts: *The President has a favourable rating in the opinion polls. **2** [C;U] the value of a building for local tax (RATES¹ (3)): *The rating officer came to look at the farm. **3** [C] the class in which a ship or machine is placed according to its size: *a ship with a rating of 500,000 tons **4** [C] a sailor in the British navy who is not an officer **5** [the +P] the number of people who watch or listen to a television or radio programme: *This show has done badly in the ratings. —see also NIELSEN RATINGS, **6** [C] the system of giving a letter to a film, showing who may see it: *The film has been given an X rating.*****

ra-ti-o /'reɪʃiə/ *n* **-os** [(of, to)] a figure showing the number of times one quantity contains another, used to show the relationship between two amounts: *The ratio of 10 to 5 is 2 to 1. | The ratio of nursing staff to doctors is 2:1. —compare PROPORTION (2)*

ra-ti-o-ci-na-tion /,ræɪtɪpsɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* *fml or pomp* exact and careful thinking

ra-tion¹ /'ræʃən/ *n* [(of)] a share of food, petrol, etc., allowed to one person for a period, esp. during a war or at a time of short supply: *the weekly meat ration | The soldiers were given their rations (of food). | (fig.) We've had our ration (=lots) of bad luck this year. —see also IRON RATIONS*

ration² *v* [T] **1** [(to)] to limit (someone) to a fixed ration: *We were rationed to two eggs a week. **2** to limit and control (supplies). In Britain many people remember the period during and after the Second World War when many goods were rationed, esp. food, clothes and petrol. —see also SECOND WORLD WAR*

ration sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to give out (supplies) as rations: *He rationed out the water to the sailors.*

ra-tion-al /'ræʃənəl/ *adj* **1** (of a person) having the ability to think, understand, and make decisions; having reason **2** (of ideas and behaviour) sensible; based on or according to reason: *a rational explanation/decision —opposite irrational —ly adv —ity* /,ræʃə'nælɪti/ *n* [U]

ra-tio-nale /,ræʃə'næl/ *n* [C;U] *fml* the reasons and principles on which a system or practice is based

ra-tion-al-ist /'ræʃənəlɪst/ *adj, n* (typical of) someone who bases their opinions and actions on reason, rather than on feelings or on religious belief —**ism** *n* [U] —**ic** /,ræʃənəlɪstɪk/ *adj*

ra-tion-al-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'ræʃənəlaɪz/ *v* [I;T] **1** *a* to explain (something) in a rational way *b* to find a reasonable but perhaps untrue explanation for (one's own behaviour or opinions): *He rationalized his dislike of authority. **2** esp. *BrE* to make (a method or system) more modern and effective and less wasteful: *We're rationalizing the organization of the company to make it more efficient. —ization* /,ræʃənəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]*

ration book /'ræɪən bʊk/ *n* *BrE* a book of stamps representing necessary articles such as food, clothes, petrol etc. given out by the government during the Second World War and for a time afterwards in order to share out these limited articles fairly. The number of stamps in the book showed the amount of a particular thing that people were allowed to buy.

Rat-ners /'rætnəz/ *n* one of a group of shops in Britain known esp. for selling a range of inexpensive jewellery

rat race /'ræɪ ræɪs/ *n* [the] *infml derog* the endless competition to succeed, esp. in business, in spite of the pressures of modern city life: *I moved to the country to get out of the rat race.*

rats /ræts/ *interj infml* (used to express annoyance or slight anger)

rat-tan /rə'tæn/ *n* [U] a plant from which WICKER furniture is made: *a rattan chair*

rat-tat /,ræɪ 'tæt/ also **rat-a-tat**— *n* [S] a sound of knocking, esp. on a door: *I heard a loud rat-tat at the door.*

Rat-ti-gan /'ræɪtɪgən/, **Sir Ter-ence** /'terəns/ (1911–77) an English writer of plays, best known for *The Winslow Boy* and *Separate Tables*

rat-tle¹ /'rætl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) make a number of quick sharp noises like small hard objects hitting each other repeatedly: *The windows rattled in the wind. | The beggar rattled the coins in his tin. **2** [I+adv/prep] to move quickly while making these noises: *The cart rattled along the stony road. **3** [T] *BrE infml* to make anxious and cause to lose confidence; UNNERVE: *She was badly rattled by her failure in the exam. —see also SABRE-RATTLING***

rattle sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to repeat quickly and easily from memory: *He rattled off the poem.*

rattle on *phr v* [I] *infml* to talk quickly and continuously, esp. about things of no importance

rattle through sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to perform quickly: *She rattled through her speech/her work.*

rattle² *n* **1** [S] a rattling noise: *the rattle of milk bottles **2** [C] a baby's toy that rattles **3** [C] an instrument that rattles, used esp. by people watching a football match **4** [C] the hard rings in a rattlesnake's tail that make a rattling noise —see also DEATH RATTLE*

Rattle, Simon (1955–) the musician who directs the playing of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

rat-tle-snake /'rætlɪsneɪk/ also **rat-tler** /'rætlɪ/ *esp. AmE*— *n* a poisonous American snake that makes a rattling noise with its tail when it is angry

rat-tle-trap /'rætlɪtræp/ *n infml* a noisy old vehicle, esp. a car

rat-ting /'rætlɪŋ/ *adv old-fash infml, apprec very*: *a rattling good story*

rat trap /'ræɪ tɹæp/ *n AmE* a dirty old building that is in very bad condition

rat-ty /'ræti/ *adj* **1** *BrE infml* bad-tempered; IRRITABLE **2**

AmE infml untidy and in bad condition; **SHABBY**: *a ratty old coat* **3** like or full of rats

Ratty a character in *The Wind in the Willows*, a children's story by Kenneth Grahame. He is a water rat, known esp. for his enjoyment of "messaging about in boats" (=spending time lazily in boats).

rau-cous /'rɔ:kəs/ *adj* (of voices) rough and unpleasant: *raucous shouts* | *the raucous behaviour of drunken teenagers* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

raunch-y /'rɔ:ntʃi/ *adj infml* suggesting thoughts of sex; sexy: *a raunchy dance* — **~ily** *adv* — **~iness** *n* [U]

rav-age /'rævidʒ/ *v* [T often *pass.*] to ruin and destroy; **DEVASTATE**: *crops ravaged by storms* | *The whole area was ravaged by forest fires.*

rav-ag-es /'rævidʒɪz/ *n* [the+P+of] damage caused (as if) by ravaging; destroying effects: *the ravages of fire/war/inflation*

rave¹ /reɪv/ *v* [I (about, against, at)] to talk wildly as if mad: *He raved all night in his fever.* | *Father's raving at/against the government again.* — see also **RAVING**

rave about sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to speak about with extreme praise or admiration: *Everyone was raving about the new singer.*

rave² *adj* [A] *infml* full of very eager praise, esp. in a newspaper: *His new play has been getting rave notices/reviews in the papers.*

rave³ *n* (in Britain) a very large dance for young people which may last all night. Raves take place in large empty buildings, sometimes without the owner's permission, and are associated in people's minds with **HOUSE MUSIC** and drugs such as **ECSTASY**. The police often try to prevent raves — see also **ACID HOUSE PARTY**

rav-el /'rævəl/ *v* -ll- **BrE** || -l- **AmE** [I;T] **1** [(UP)] to (cause to) become twisted and knotted **2** to **UNRAVEL**

Ra-vel /ræ'vel/, **Mau-ric** /mɔ:'rɪs||mɔ:z-/ (1875–1937) a French **COMPOSER**, known esp. for his *Boléro*

ra-ven /'reɪvən/ *n* a large shiny black bird with a black beak which makes a deep unmusical sound (**CROAK**). Some ravens live outside the Tower of London and it is said that something terrible will happen to England if they leave. A well-known poem by Edgar Allan Poe called *The Raven* features a raven who repeats the word "nevermore".

raven-haired /,rævən'haɪd/ *adj lit* with shiny black hair

rav-e-ning /'rævənɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *esp. lit* fierce and dangerous because of hunger: *ravering tigers*

rav-e-nous /'rævənəs/ *adj* very hungry: *a ravenous appetite* | *Have a sandwich; you must be ravenous!* — **~ly** *adv*

rav-er /'reɪvə/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a person who leads an exciting life of social and sexual freedom

rave-up /'rævʌp/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a wild exciting party

ra-vine /rə'veɪn/ *n* a deep narrow valley with steep sides — see **VALLEY** (**USAGE**)

rav-ing /'reɪvɪŋ/ *adj, adv infml* **1** talking or behaving wildly: *a raving lunatic* | *He's (stark) raving mad.* **2** [A] very great; attracting great admiration: *a raving beauty* (=a very beautiful woman) | *The concert was not a raving success.*

rav-ings /'reɪvɪŋz/ *n* [P] wild uncontrolled talk: *the ravings of a madman*

rav-i-o-li /,rævi'əʊli/ *n* [U] Italian **PASTA** (=food made from a flour and water mixture) in the form of small cases filled with meat, cooked in boiling water

rav-ish /'rævɪʃ/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* **1** [often *pass.*] to fill with delight: *I was ravished by her beauty.* **2** to seize or rob with violence **3** to **RAPE** — **~ment** *n* [U]

rav-ish-ing /'rævɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* very beautiful; causing great delight: *a ravishing sight/blonde* — **~ly** *adv*: *ravishingly beautiful*

raw¹ /rɔ:/ *adj* **1** (of food) not cooked: *raw vegetables* **2** in the natural state; not yet treated for use: *raw sugar/cotton/sewage* **3** (of a person) not yet trained; not experienced: *a raw recruit who has just joined the army* **4** (of a part of the skin) painful; sore: *hands raw with cold* **5** (of weather) cold and wet: *a raw winter day* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

raw² *n in the raw*: **a** in an original natural state, without civilization: *life in the raw* **b infml** without clothes

Rawal-pin-di /,rɔ:l'pɪndi||,rɔ:wəl-/ a city in NE Pakistan which was formerly the capital of Pakistan

raw-boned /,rɔ:ˈbɒnd/ *adj* having large bones that show under the skin

raw deal /,rɔ:ˈdi:l/ *n infml* a case of unfair or cruel treatment: *The employees who were sacked got (rather) a raw deal*

raw-hide /'rɔ:haɪd/ *n* [U] natural untreated cow's leather: *a rawhide belt*

Rawl-plug /'rɔ:lplʌg/ *n tdmk* a special piece of material put into a hole in a wall before a screw is put in to make the screw stay firmly in place

raw ma-te-ri-als /,rɔ:ˈmæˌtɪəriəlz/ *n* [P] things such as minerals, metals, wood, oil, or skins which are the starting point for many manufacturing (**MANUFACTURE**¹) processes: *Coal and oil are important raw materials for the manufacture of plastics.*

ray¹ /reɪ/ *n* [(of)] **1** a narrow beam of light, esp. one of a group going out from the same centre: *a ray of light* | *the sun's rays* | (fig.) *Her visit brought a ray of sunshine into the old man's life.* **2** a beam of heat, electricity, or some other form of **ENERGY** (3): *a gun that fires invisible rays* — see also **COSMIC RAY**, **X-RAY** **3** a very small bit (of hope or comfort): *There isn't a ray of hope left for us.*

ray² *n* a large flat sea fish with a long pointed tail

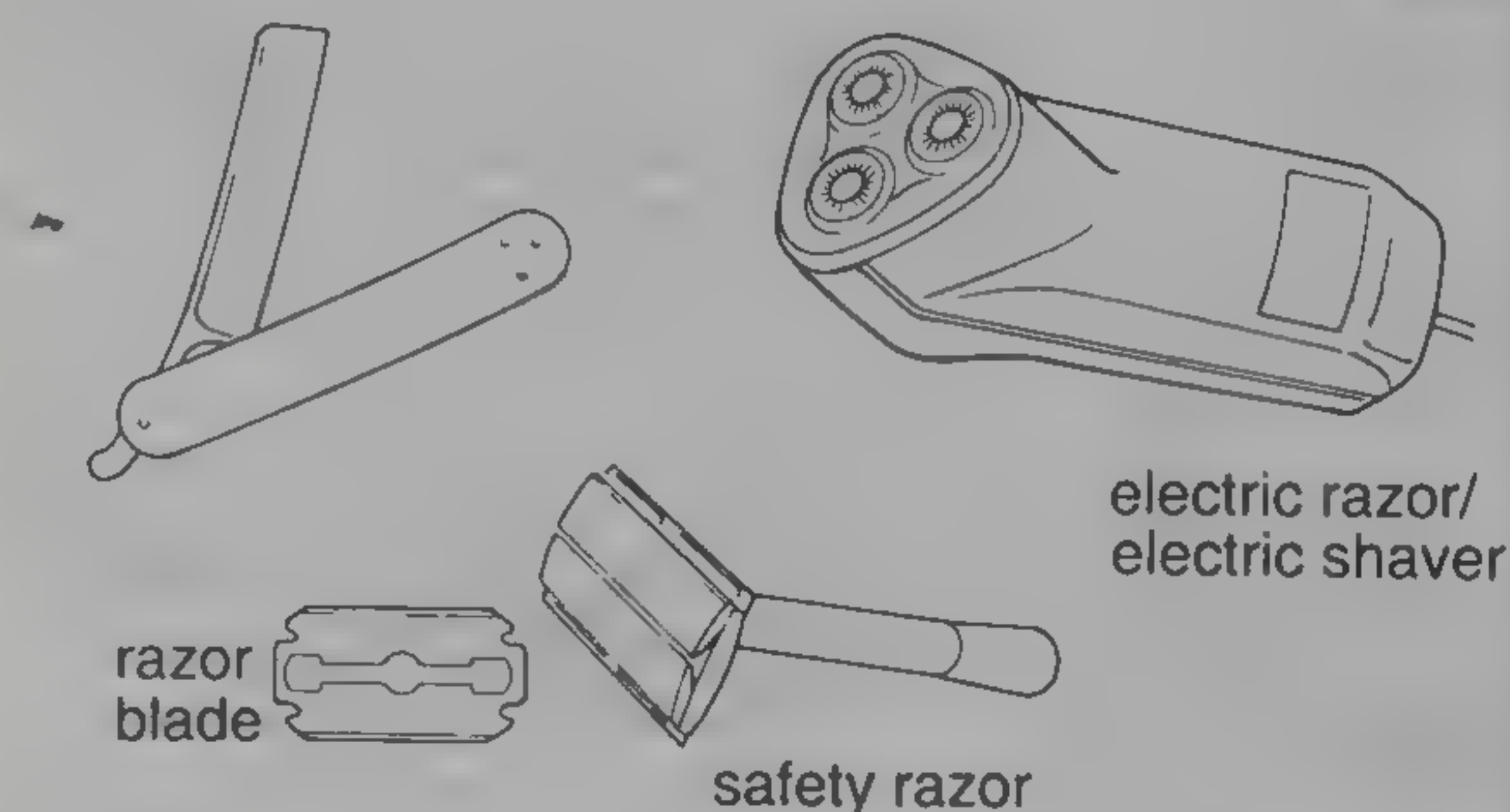
Ray, Sat-ya-jit /'sætjədʒɪt/ (1921–92) an Indian film director known for films such as *Pather Panchali* and *The Chess Players*

Ray-ner /'reɪnə/, **Claire** /kleə/ (1931–) a well known English **AGONY AUNT**

ray-on /'reɪɒn||-ɑ:n/ *n* [U] a smooth silk-like material made from plant substances, often used to make clothes

raze /reɪz/ *v* [T] *fml* to destroy (buildings, towns, etc.) completely, so that no part is left standing: *The air attack razed the city to the ground.*

razors



ra-zor /'reɪzə/ *n* a sharp instrument for removing hair, esp. the hair that grows on a man's face: *I shave with an electric razor.* | (fig.) *his razor-sharp* (=very fine and quick) *wit* — compare **SHAVER**; see also **CUTTHROAT**¹ (2), **SAFETY RAZOR**

razor blade /'ræzəˈbleɪd/ *n* a flat blade with a very sharp cutting edge, used in a **SAFETY RAZOR** — see picture at **RAZOR**

razor edge /,ræzəˈɛdʒ/ also **razor's edge** — *n* [S] a difficult or dangerous position between two opposite states: *Edward nearly died after the accident — his life was on a razor edge for days.*

raz-zle /'ræzəl/ *n infml, esp. BrE* **on the razzle** having a wild enjoyable time: *After they won the match they all went on the razzle.*

razzle-daz-zle /,ræzəlˈdæzəl/ *n* [U] noisy, colourful activity which is meant to excite and impress: *That advertising campaign uses a lot of razzle-dazzle to hide the fact that the product isn't very good.*

razz-ma-tazz /,ræzməˈtæz/ *n* [U] *infml* noisy showy activity intended to attract attention and admiration: *all the razzmatazz of the presidential election campaign*

RBI /,ɑ:ˈbi:ˈaɪ||,ɑ:r-/ *n* (in **BASEBALL**) runs batted in; the total number of runs (**RUN**² (10)) which a player helps to make by hitting the ball: *He had six R.B.I.'s this game alone and sixty-two for the season so far.*

RC /,ɑ:ˈsi:||,ɑ:r-/ *abbrev. for*: **ROMAN CATHOLIC**

RCMP /,ɑ:ˈsɪz em ˈpi:||,ɑ:r-/ **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**; a police force of Canada — see also **MOUNTIE**

Rd *written abbrev. for:* ROAD

RD /,ɑːˈdiː||,ɑːr-/ *n* *AmE* rural delivery; a postal service which delivers the post in country areas; the letters R.D. are part of someone's address

re¹ /rei/ *n* [S;U] the second note in the SOL-FA musical SCALE¹ (5)

re² /riː/ *prep* (esp. in business letters) on the subject of; with regard to: *re your inquiry of the 19th October*

RE /,ɑːrˈiː/ *abbrev. for:* RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

re- see WORD FORMATION

're /əˈ/ *short for:* are: *We're ready but they're not.* (compare *They're not ready but we are* (not *we're*))

reach¹ /riːtʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to arrive at or come as far as; get to, often after much time or effort: *After several changes of plane, we finally reached London on Tuesday morning.* | *Have you reached the end of the book yet?* | *The news only reached me yesterday.* | *She's reached the age of 50.* | *Our sales to Germany have reached record levels.* | *The two sides failed to reach (an) agreement after several hours of discussion.* **2** [I+adv/prep] to stretch out a hand or arm for some purpose: *He reached across the table and picked up the book.* | *The shopkeeper reached for a packet of tea.* **3** [I;T not in progressive forms] to be able to touch (something) by stretching out a hand or arm: *Are you tall enough to reach that apple on the tree?* | (fig.) *We could see nothing but houses as far as the eye could reach.* (=to the horizon) **4** [I+adv/prep;T not in progressive forms] (of a thing or place) to be big enough to touch; stretch out as far as: *The ladder won't quite reach (as far as) the window.* | *The garden reaches down to the lake.* **5** [T (for)] to get or give by stretching out a hand or arm: *I reached down the child's cap from the hook.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Could you reach me that book from the top shelf?* **6** [T] to get a message to; get in touch with; CONTACT: *You can usually reach him on this phone number ...* **7** **reach for the stars** to try to gain something far away and seemingly impossible to reach

reach sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (for)] to stretch out (a hand or arm): *The monkey reached out a hand for the banana.*

reach² *n* **1** [U (of)] **a** the distance that one can touch by stretching: *The bottle was within/out of (his) reach.* (=he could/could not reach it) **b** the distance that can be (easily) travelled: *We live within easy reach of the shops.* **c** the limit to which something can have effect or influence: *It's beyond the reach of my imagination.* **2** [S] the length of one's arm: *a boxer with a long reach* **3** [C] a straight stretch of water between two bends in a river: *the upper reaches of the river* (=the part of the river farthest from the sea)

reach-me-down /'riːməˌdaʊn/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *BrE* for HAND-ME-DOWN

re-act /riˈækt/ *v* [I] **1** [(to, against)] to act or behave in a particular way in answer or opposition: *The government has reacted to the outbreak of violence by sending army patrols to police the area.* | *How did he react to your suggestion?* | *She reacted angrily to these accusations.* | *Children tend to react against their parents by going against their wishes.* | *The patient reacted badly to the drug.* (=was made ill by it) **2** [(with, on)] *tech* (of a substance) to change when mixed with another: *An acid can react with a base to form a salt.* —see also REAGENT, RESPOND (USAGE)

re-action /riˈækʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (to)] (a case or way of) reacting; RESPONSE: *What was your reaction to the news?* (=what did you think about it?) | *The news of the planned closure of the factory provoked a hostile reaction from the union.* **2** [C;U (on, to, against)] *tech* (in science) **a** (a) force exercised by a body in reply to another force, which is of equal strength and acts in the opposite direction **b** (a) change caused in a chemical substance by the action of another **3** [S;U (from, against)] **a** (a) change back to a former condition: *The popularity of these old-fashioned views reflects a reaction against the permissiveness of the 1960s.* **b** sudden weakness, tiredness, low spirits, etc., coming after unusual activity, esp. of the mind: *She may suffer a reaction when the drug wears off.* **4** [U] *derog* the quality of being reactionary: *The revolution was defeated by the forces of reaction.* —see also CHAIN REACTION

re-action-ary /riˈækʃənəri||-fənəri/ *n, adj derog* (a person) strongly opposed to social or political change: *a diehard reactionary* | *reactionary views* —compare LIBERAL¹, RADICAL¹ (2)

re-ac-tiv-ate /riˈæktɪveɪt/ *v* [I;T] to make or become active again: *We reactivated the machine.* | *The chemicals reactivate when heated.*

re-ac-tive /riˈæktɪv/ *adj tech* (of a chemical substance) that REACTS (2) —~ly *adv* —~ness *n*

re-ac-tor /riˈæktər/ *n* **1** a NUCLEAR REACTOR **2** a container for a chemical reaction

read¹ /riːd/ *v* **read** /red/ **1** [I;T] to look at and understand (something printed or written): *The little boy can read quite well now.* | *He reads well for a six-year-old.* | *to read a book/music/a map* | *Read the instructions before you start the machine.* | *I can read French but I can't speak it.* **2** [I;T] to learn (the stated information) from print or writing: *I read about the murder/read an account of the murder in the paper.* [+that] *I read that the new director is Spanish.* **3** [I+adv/prep; L+n; not in progressive forms] (of written words) to have a particular form or produce a particular effect when read: *The name should read "Benson", not "Fenton".* | *Her letter reads as follows ...* | *I rewrote the last paragraph because it didn't read very well.* **4** [I;T (to)] to say (printed or written words) to others: *The teacher read the poem aloud to the class.* | *She read (a story) to the children.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *She read the children a story.* —compare READ OUT **5** [T] (of a measuring instrument) to show: *The thermometer reads 33 degrees.* **6** [T] *BrE* to study (a subject) at university: *Helen's reading history/law at Oxford.* —compare READ FOR **7** [T (as)] **a** to understand the meaning or nature of (a statement, event, experience, person, etc.) in a particular way; INTERPRET: *His speech about unity showed that he had accurately read the mood of the conference.* | *I read her reply as a refusal.* | *How do you read the latest trade figures?* | *I can read your thoughts from the look on your face.* | *It's hard to read him when he's in one of his moods.* **b** to tell what will happen in the future from (various visible objects): *Have you ever had your palm read?* | *I know a woman who reads tea leaves.* | *His wife reads tarot cards.* **8** [T (as, for) *usu. imperative*] *fml* to understand (the stated printed or written words) to be a mistake for: *For £50 please read £15.* | *Please read £50 as £15.* **9** [T] to obtain and use (information) from a computer STORAGE system: *The disk drive reads data from the disk into the computer's memory.* **10** **read all about it!** (a phrase typically said by people selling newspapers on the street): *Big fire in city warehouse — read all about it!* **11** **read between the lines** to find hidden meanings: *If you read between the lines, this letter is really a request for money.* **12** **read the tea leaves** to look at the pattern of tea leaves left in the bottom of the cup in order to know the future **13** **take something as read** *esp. BrE* to accept something as true or right without the need to hear it, talk about it, etc.: *We didn't have time to hear the secretary's report, so we took it as read.* | *We can take it as read that the newspapers will support our opponents.* **14** **-read** /red/ *a* (of a person) having a stated amount of knowledge gained from books: *a well-read woman* | *He's widely-read.* **b** (of a book, newspaper, etc.) read by a stated number of people: *a little-read novel* —see also read the riot act (RIOT ACT)

read for sthg. *phr v* [T] *esp. BrE* to study in order to gain (esp. a university degree): *She's reading for a degree in physics.* —compare READ¹ (6)

read sthg. **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to believe (something) to be meant though not expressed by (something else): *Don't read more into her letter than she intended.* | *It was only a casual remark — don't read too much into it.*

read sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to read aloud for others to hear: *The announcer read out the football results.* —compare READ¹ (4)

read sthg. ↔ **over/through** *phr v* [T] to read completely, from beginning to end —**read-through** /'riːdθruː/ *n* [S]

read up *phr v* [I (on);T (=read sthg. ↔ up)] *infml* to study (a subject) thoroughly; find out about by reading: *I need to read up (on) the tax laws.*

read² *n* [S] **1** an act or period of reading: *Can I have a read of your paper?* **2** something of the stated kind to be read: *It's not great literature but it's a good read.*

rea-da-ble /'riːdəbəl/ *adj* **1** *apprec* interesting or enjoyable to read **2** LEGIBLE —opposite UNREADABLE; see also MACHINE-READABLE —**bility** /'riːdə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

re-ad-dress /,riːəˈdres/ *BrE* || **forward** *AmE* — *v* [T (to)] to write a different address on (a letter that has been delivered wrongly to one's own address); REDIRECT: *I asked*

them to readdress my letters (to my new house).

read-er /'rɪdər/ *n* 1 a person who reads a stated thing or in a stated way: *Are you a fast reader?* | *My brother's a great reader/an avid reader.* (=he reads a lot) | (in a newspaper) *We have received many letters on this subject from our readers.* 2 a person who reads books to put mistakes right before printing, or to decide whether to print (PUBLISH) them 3 [(in)] (often cap.) a British university teacher just below the rank of PROFESSOR: *She's a reader in French.* 4 a schoolbook for beginners, usu. containing short passages or stories for reading 5 a book containing a collection of writings by one writer, or about a particular subject

Reader, The a weekly US newspaper printed in Chicago. It is known esp. for news about entertainment. —see also extra information on page 896

Reader's Digest /,riːdərˈdɪdʒɪst/ a popular magazine for the general reader, printed in many different languages and containing a variety of information and stories about many different subjects. It is delivered to readers by post. The American and British magazines of this name are produced separately.

read-er-ship /'rɪdərʃɪp/ *n* 1 [S] the particular number or type of people who read a newspaper or magazine: *The paper has a readership of 80,000/a very well-educated readership.* 2 [C (in)] the position of a READER (3)

read-ies /'redɪz/ *n* [P] BrE READY³ (1)

read-i-ly /'redɪli/ *adv* 1 quickly and willingly: *He readily agreed to their suggestion.* 2 with no difficulty: *This type of plug is readily available.*

read-i-ness /'redɪnəs/ *n* *fml* 1 [(in) U (for)] the state of being ready or prepared: *The defences are kept in readiness for an enemy attack.* 2 [S;U] (a) willingness: [+to-v] *She shows (a) great readiness to learn.* 3 [S;U+of] (a) quickness and ability to do something easily: *readiness of understanding* —see also READY¹ (3)

read-ing¹ /'rɪdɪŋ/ *n* 1 [U] the act or practice of reading: *Children learn reading and writing at school.* 2 [C (of)] an opinion about the meaning of (a statement, set of events, etc.); INTERPRETATION: *My reading of the law is that we needn't pay.* | *What's your reading of the latest trade figures?* 3 [C] a figure shown by a measuring instrument: *What are the temperature readings for the week?* 4 [U] something of the stated type to be read: *Books like this are unsuitable/difficult reading for children.* | *The report makes interesting reading.* (=is interesting to read) | *reading matter* (=books, newspapers, etc.) 5 [C] a gathering of people at which literature is read aloud: *a poetry reading* 6 [C] any of the official occasions in the British Parliament or US Congress on which a BILL (=a suggested new law) is read aloud and considered before it can actually become law: *the third reading of the Industrial Relations Bill*

reading² *adj* [A] for reading: *the reading room at the library* | *a reading lamp*

Read-ing /'redɪŋ/ a university town on the River Thames in Berkshire, S England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based

re-ad-just /,rɪːə'dʒʌst/ *v* [I;T (to)] to get or put back into the proper state or position: *Readjust the driving mirror.* | *It's hard to readjust (oneself) to school life after the holidays.* — *~ment* *n* [C;U] : a period of readjustment | *The mechanic made a few minor readjustments.*

read-on-ly mem-o-ry /,riːdɒnˈliː mɛmˈɔːri/ see ROM

read-out /'rɪd-aʊt/ *n* a showing, e.g. in printed form or on a SCREEN, of information that has been processed by a computer: *Using this program, you can get a readout of all the areas where sales have increased.* —see also PRINTOUT

read-y¹ /'redi/ *adj* 1 [F (for)] prepared and fit (for use or action): *Is breakfast ready?* | *Come on — aren't you ready yet?* | *Is everything ready for the party?* [+to-v] *I'm not ready to go yet.* | *These apples are ready to eat* (=ready to be eaten) | *We'd better get ready to leave.* | (*fml*) *They made ready* (=prepared) *for the attack.* 2 [F] (of a person) willing to do or give something: [+with] *She's always ready with advice/with an excuse.* [+to-v] *You're too ready to criticize.* 3 [A] *fml, usu. apprec* (of the powers of the mind) quick: *a man of ready wit* | *a ready understanding of the problem* 4 [F+to-v] likely to do something: *I felt ready to cry with frustration.* | *We marched*

until we were ready to drop. —see also READILY, READINESS

ready² *adv* (used before a past participle) in advance; already: *You can buy the bread ready cut.* | *a ready-cooked dinner*

ready³ *n* [the] 1 also *readies pl.* — BrE *infml* for READY MONEY: *I'm a bit short of the ready this week.* 2 at/to the ready in/to the state of being ready: *Have your guns at the ready men!*

ready⁴ *interj* BrE *ready, steady, go!* also *on your mark(s), get set, go!* esp. AmE (used when telling people to begin a race)

ready⁵ *v* [T] *fml* to make ready; prepare

ready-made /,riːdɪˈmeɪd/ *adj* 1 (esp. of clothes) not made specially for the buyer; able to be worn at once: *a ready-made suit* | (fig.) *His second wife had three children already, so when he married her he had a ready-made family.* 2 useful and suitable for a purpose; convenient: *The rain gave us a ready-made excuse for not going out.* 3 *derog* not original: *ready-made opinions*

ready meal /,riːdɪˈmeɪl/ *n* a prepared meal bought in a shop and which only needs to be heated before eating

ready-mix¹ /,riːdɪˈmɪks/ *adj* (of food powder) ready to cook after adding water or milk: *a ready-mix cake*

ready-mix² *n* *tdmk* CONCRETE which has been mixed before or during delivery to a place where building is being done

ready mon-ey /,riːdɪˈmɒni/ also **ready cash** /,riːdɪˈkæʃ/ *n* [U] money that can be paid at once in actual coins and notes, and not owed

ready-to-wear /,riːdɪˈtuːweə/ *adj* (of clothes) ready-made: *a ready-to-wear suit*

re-af-firm /,rɪːəˈfɜːm/ *v* [T] to declare again, or in answer to a question or doubt: *The conference overwhelmingly reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear disarmament.* [+that] *The statement reaffirmed that the government would never make concessions to terrorists.* — *~ation* /,rɪːəˈfɜːməʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re-af-for-est /,rɪːəˈfɔːrɪst/ *v* [T] to plant (land) again with forest trees for industrial use or to improve the environment — *~ation* /,rɪːəˈfɔːrɪsteɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Rea-gan¹ /'reɪgən/, **Nan-cy** /'nænsi/ (1923–) the wife of the former American president Ronald Reagan, known for her belief in the power of ASTROLOGY and her strong influence on her husband while he was president

Reagan², **Ron-ald Wil-son**

/'rɒnəld ˈwɪlsən/ *n* (1911–) an American Republican politician who was the 40th president of the US (1981–89). Reagan was a popular president among many Americans, partly because of his policies (POLICY) and partly because he seemed likeable. People also connect him with SDI, a programme of defence in space, and with the Iran-Contra affair (IRANGATE), though he said that he knew nothing about it. He is also known for having been a film actor before he became a politician.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan



Rea-gan-om-ics /,reɪgənˈnɒmɪks/ *n* [P+sing./pl.v] the economic ideas and policies (POLICY) of the US between 1981 and 1989, when Ronald Reagan was president

re-a-gent /rɪːˈeɪdʒənt/ *n* *tech* a substance that by causing a chemical REACTION (2) in a compound shows the presence of another substance

real¹ /rɪəl/ *adj* 1 not pretended, artificial, or false; actual or true: *Is your ring real gold?* | *What was the real reason for your absence?* | *He didn't start the club purely as a business venture — he's got a real* (=sincere) *interest in jazz music.* | *The director got all the credit for the new product, but it was his assistant who was the real brain behind it.* (=who did the important work) | *The real* (=most important) *lesson of this tragedy is that safety regulations must be made more strict.* | *The money spent on education has gone up by 10% in real terms.* (=after taking account of general rises in price) 2 actually

existing; not imaginary: *a story of real life* **3** [A] (used to add force) complete; great: *You're a real idiot!* | *That cake was a real treat!* **4** [A] *apprec* (esp. of a drink or food) made in the proper old way rather than by modern artificial methods: *real mashed potatoes* **5** *for real* *infml*, esp. *AmE* serious or seriously: *They were fighting for real.* | *We didn't believe their threats were for real.* — see also REALITY, REALLY — ~ness *n* [U]

real² *adv infml*, esp. *AmE* very: *I'm real sorry!*

real ale /ɪˌˈɑːl/ *n* a type of beer made by TRADITIONAL methods, which ferments (FERMENT¹) in the BARREL and which is not FIZZY

real es·tate /ɪˌˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** also **real property**— *fml* or *law* property in the form of land and houses —compare PERSONAL PROPERTY **2** esp. *AmE* houses to be bought: *He sells real estate.*

real estate a·gent /ɪˌˈrɪəlɪzəm/ also **Realtor** *tdmk*— *n* *AmE* for ESTATE AGENT

re-align /ˌrɪəˈlaɪn/ *v* [I;T] to form into new groups, new types of organization or arrangement, etc: *The general realigned his forces to mount a fresh attack.* — ~ment *n* [C;U]: *a realignment of political parties*

real-is·m /ˌrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** *apprec* accepting and dealing with life and its problems in a practical way, without being influenced by feelings or false ideas **2** (often *cap.*) (in art and literature, esp. following ROMANTICISM in the 19th century) the showing of things as they really are —compare CLASSICISM (1,2), ROMANTICISM —list *n*

real-is·tic /rɪəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj* *apprec* **1** showing REALISM (1); sensible and reasonable: *It would be nice to have another holiday, but we've got to be realistic (about it) — we can't really afford one.* | *It's not really worth £1000; a more realistic estimate would be £600.* | *a realistic assessment of their prospects* —opposite UNREALISTIC **2** (of art or literature) showing or describing things as they appear to most people: *a realistic drawing of a horse* — ~ally *kli/adv*: *She drew the horse very realistically.* | *Realistically, it's only worth about £600.*

re-al·i·ty /rɪˈælɪti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality or state of being real: *She believes in the reality of God.* | *We thought they had come to repair the phone, but in reality (=in actual fact) they were burglars.* **2** [C;U] something or everything that is real: *Her dream of being a film star became a reality.* | *Many people go to the cinema as an escape from reality.* | *We were promised a trouble-free holiday, but the reality (=what actually happened) was rather different.*

rea-li·za·tion also -sation *BrE* /ˌrɪəlɪˈzeɪʃən/ -lə-/ *n* **1** [S;U] (an experience of) understanding and believing; being or becoming conscious (of): (a) *full realization of his guilt* [+that] *the sudden realization that we had been wrong all the time* **2** [the+of] the becoming real of a hope, plan, fear, etc.: *The next year saw the realization of my hopes.* **3** [the+of] *tech* the act of selling ASSETS or of getting money for property: *the realization of the house/of £1000/of their shares*

rea-lize also -lize *BrE* /ˌrɪəlɪz/ *v* [T not usu. in progressive forms] **1** to understand and believe (a fact); be or become conscious of: *He didn't realize his mistake/the risks he was taking.* [+that] *She spoke English so well that I never realized she was German.* [+wh-] *I didn't realize how late it was.* | (in making requests) *I realize you're very busy, but could I talk to you for a few minutes?* | (shows annoyance) *Do you realize you're half an hour late?* **2** to make (a hope, purpose, fear, etc.) real: *She realized her ambition of becoming an actress.* | *My worst fears were realized when I saw what the exam questions were.* **3** *fml* a to change into money by selling: *We realized all our assets.* b to get (money by selling): *We realized a profit (on the house).* c (of something sold) to bring (an amount of money): *The car realized £3000.* —lizable *adj*: *realizable hopes/property*

real·ly /ˌrɪəli/ *adv* **1** in fact; actually: *Did she really say that?* | *I really don't/I don't really want any more coffee.* | *The report describes things as they really are.* | *He's really rather a nice boy/He's quite a nice boy, really.* **2** very (much); thoroughly: *It's really cold today.* | *a really cold day* | *I really can't stand him.* **3** (used esp. with **ought** or **should**) correctly; properly: *You ought really (BrE) | really ought (AmE) to have asked me first.* | *I'll let you use the phone this time, but you're not really supposed to.* **4** (shows interest, doubt, surprise, or slight displeasure):

"I collect rare coins." "Really?" | *Well, really! What a stupid thing to do.*

▷ USAGE In informal American speech, **really** is used in most cases where a British speaker would use **quite**: *It was quite (BrE) || really (AmE) nice of you.* | *I thought the film was quite (BrE) || really (AmE) good.* <

realm /reɪlm/ *n* **1** (often *cap.*) *lit* or *law* a country ruled over by a king or queen: *the defence of the Realm* **2** [(of)] also **realms** *pl.*— an area of activity, study, etc.: *the realm of science* | *Such a thing is not within the realms of possibility.* (=is not possible)

re-al-pol-i-tik /reɪˈɑːlpɒlɪtɪk/ -paɪ-/ *n* [U] politics based on practical facts or possibilities rather than on moral aims, and directed towards the success and advantage of one's own country, political group, etc.

real prop·er·ty /ɪˌˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *fml*, esp. *law* for REAL ESTATE (1)

real ten·nis /ɪˌˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] a game played by two or four people using rackets (RACKET (1)) and a ball in an indoor court of an irregular shape, divided by a net. This game was the original form of tennis.

real-time /ɪˌˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or being a computer's handling of a requested operation immediately and without interruption until it is finished: *a real-time interactive database* **real time** *n* [U]: *These schedule updates have to happen in real time.* —compare TIME-SHARING

Real·tor /ˌrɪəltər/, -tɔːr/ *n* *AmE* *tdmk* for ESTATE AGENT

real·ty /ˌrɪəlti/ *n* [U] *AmE* for REAL ESTATE

real world /ɪˌˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [the] the world, life, conditions, situations, etc. as they really exist, not as in someone's imagination of how they should be: *You suggest that we should abolish income tax altogether, but that's not living in the real world.*

ream¹ /rɪəm/ *n* **1** a (in Britain) 480 pieces of paper b (in the US) 500 pieces of paper —compare QUIRE **2** [(of)] also **reams** *pl.*— *infml* a lot of writing: *She wrote reams of notes.*

ream² *v* [T] esp. *AmE* **1** to make (a hole or opening) larger **2** *infml* to treat badly, esp. by cheating

ream·er /ˌrɪəmə/ *n* esp. *AmE* a tool used to make a hole or opening larger

re-an-i·mate /rɪˈænɪmeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to fill with new strength or courage; bring back to life: *The new leader reanimated the political party.*

reap /rɪp/ *v* [I;T] to cut and gather (a crop of grain): *The men were all out reaping.* | *Nowadays machines are used to reap the corn.* | (fig.) *She invested cleverly, and reaped a rich reward.* | (fig.) *He finally reaped the benefit of all his years of hard work.* —compare HARVEST² — ~er *n* —see also GRIM REAPER

re-ap·pear /ˌrɪəˈpiə/ *v* [I] to appear again after an absence — ~ance *n* [U]

re-ap·praise /ˌrɪəˈpreɪz/ *v* [T] *fml* to examine (something) again to see whether one should change one's opinion of it: *The time had come for them to reappraise their economic strategy.* —praisal *n* [C;U]

rear¹ /rɪər/ *n* **1** [the] *rather fml* the back: *a garden at the rear of the house* | *The engine is in the rear.* —compare FRONT¹ (1) **2** [C] *euph* the part of the body on which one sits; BUTTOCKS **3** **bring up the rear** to be the last, e.g. in a line of people or a race —rear *adj* [A]: *a rear window* | *The rear light of a car* —see picture at CAR

▷ USAGE British speakers say **at the rear** for something that is behind: *a garden at the rear of the house*, and **in the rear** for the back part of something: *to walk in the rear of the procession*. American speakers generally say **in the rear** for both. <

rear² *v* **1** [T (on)] to care for until fully grown: *She's reared a large family.* | *a hand-reared goat* (=fed by a human being) —compare RAISE¹ (4) **2** [I] (of a four-legged animal) to rise upright on the back legs: *The horse reared and threw me off.* —compare BUCK² (2) **3** [T] to lift up (a part of oneself, esp. the head), esp. so as to be noticed: *The lion reared its head.* | (fig.) *The threat of war/of a big price rise/once again has reared its ugly head.* (=appeared)

rear ad·mi·ral /ɪˌˈrɪəˈɑːl/ *n* (often *cap.*) a rank in the navy: *Rear Admiral Jones* —see TABLE 3

Rear·don /ˌrɪədən/ -rɪər-, Ray (1932–) a Welsh SNOOKER player who has been world snooker CHAMPION six times

rear-guard /'riəgɑ:d||'riəgɑ:rd/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] a formation of soldiers protecting the rear of an army —compare VANGUARD

rearguard action /,riə'gɑ:rd/ *n* a fight by the rearguard of an army that is being driven back by a victorious enemy: (fig.) *They fought a rearguard action against political changes that were almost inevitable.*

re-arm /ri:'ɑ:rm||-'ɑ:rm/ *v* [I;T (with)] to provide (oneself or others) with weapons again, or with new weapons: *If we want to fight we must rearm.* | *They rearmed their allies with modern missiles.* —compare DISARM (2)

re-armament /ri:'ɑ:rməmənt||-'ɑ:rm-/ *n* [U] the rearming of a nation —compare DISARMAMENT

rear-most /'riəməʊst||'riə-/ *adj* [A] furthest back; last: *the rearmost carriage of the train*

re-ar-range /,riə'reɪndʒ/ *v* [T] to put into a different (and better) arrangement: *Let's rearrange the room and have the desk by the window.* — *~ment* *n* [C;U]: *various rearrangements* | *a lot of rearrangement*

rear-view mir-ror /,riəvju:'mɪrə||,riə-/ *n* a mirror in a vehicle, such as a car or a bus, which lets the driver see the area behind the vehicle —see picture at CAR

rear-ward /'riəwəd||'riəwərd/ *adj, n* [A; the] (in or towards) the REAR¹ (1) —*wards, -ward* *adv*

rea-son¹ /'ri:zən/ *n* 1 [C;U (for)] the cause of an event or situation; a fact, event, or statement that provides an explanation or excuse for something: *She just suddenly left without giving any reason.* | *He decided not to accept the job, but wouldn't tell us his reasons.* | *The reason for the flood was all that heavy rain.* [+to-*v*] *They have said the new product will be a success, and I see no reason to doubt it.* | *There is reason to believe she was murdered.* | *In view of her behaviour, you had every reason (=good reason) to be suspicious.* [+*(that)*] *The reason I didn't tell you was that I wanted it to be a surprise.* [+*why*] *The reason why she didn't get the job was that her English was not very good.* | (*fml*) *He escaped punishment, by reason of (=because of) his youth.* | *He thinks, with reason (=rightly), that I don't like him.* | *She decided, for reasons best known to herself (=no one else knew her reasons), to move to another job.* | *For safety reasons/For reasons of safety, the doors are kept locked.* 2 [U] the ability to think, understand, and form opinions or judgments that are based on facts: *People are different from animals because they possess the power of reason.* 3 [U] good sense: *There's a great deal of reason in his advice.* | *Their demands are/go beyond all reason!* (=are more than is acceptable or reasonable) | *I told him not to be so stupid, but he wouldn't listen to reason.* (=be persuaded by sensible advice) 4 [U] a healthy mind that is not mad: *to lose/regain one's reason* 5 *within reason* within reasonable limits: *The bank will lend you as much as you need, within reason.* —see also **stand to reason** (STAND¹ (32))

▷ **USAGE** 1 Some people think a sentence such as *The reason for my absence was because I was ill* is bad English. It is better to say *The reason for my absence was that I was ill.* 2 Compare **cause** and **reason**. A **cause** is something which produces a result: *The cause of the accident was the fact that he was driving too fast.* A **reason** is something which explains or excuses an action: *The reason he was driving so fast was that he was late for an important meeting.* —see also **EXCUSE**² (USAGE)◁

reason² *v* 1 [I] to use one's REASON¹ (2): *the ability to reason* 2 [T+*that; obj*] to form an opinion based on REASON¹ (2): *We reasoned that the terrorists would not negotiate unless we made some concessions.* 3 [T+*obj*+*into/out of*] to persuade (someone) to do/not to do: *Try to reason him out of that idea/into going away quietly.* 4 **Their's not to reason why, Their's but to do and die** *quote* a phrase from the poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Tennyson, used now to say that someone should not ask questions but should just do as they are told —see also **CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE** — *~er* *n*: *a clever reasoner* **reason with** *sbdy. phr v* [T] to talk or argue with (someone) in order to persuade them to be more sensible: *There's no point in trying to reason with him — he'll never change his mind.*

rea-so-na-ble /'ri:zənəbəl/ *adj* 1 (of a person or their behaviour) showing fairness and good sense: *a reasonable man* | *a reasonable request* | *Be reasonable — you can't*

expect her to do all the work on her own! | *a perfectly reasonable thing to do* | *It's reasonable to expect that prices will come down soon.* —opposite **unreasonable**; see **LOGICAL** (USAGE) 2 *a* not too much, too many, or too great: *We live a reasonable distance away from the station.* *b* (of a price) fair; not expensive: *Bananas are quite reasonable this week.* 3 not bad; quite good: *"What's the food in the canteen like?" "It's quite reasonable."* — *~ness* *n* [U]

rea-son-a-bly /'ri:zənəbli/ *adv* 1 sensibly: *to behave reasonably* 2 quite; fairly: *The car is in reasonably good condition.* | *They live reasonably close.* | *a reasonably-priced car*

rea-soned /'ri:zənd/ *adj* [A] *apprec* (of a statement, argument, etc.) clearly thought out; based on reason: *a (well-) reasoned statement/explanation*

rea-son-ing /'ri:zəniŋ/ *n* [U] the use of one's REASON¹ (2): *According to their reasoning lower oil prices will stimulate business activity in the poorer countries.*

re-as-sure /,ri:ə'sʊə/ *v* [T (about)] to comfort and make free from fear or worry; bring back confidence to: *I was worried that my work wasn't good enough, but the teacher reassured me (about it).* | *She was reassured by our offer of support.* [+*that*] *The chairman tried to reassure the shareholders that the company's bad results would not be repeated.* —see **INSURE** (USAGE) —**surance** *n* [C;U]: *She won't believe it in spite of all our reassurance(s).* —**suringly** *adv*: *"You'll be all right," he said reassuringly.*

re-bar-ba-tive /rɪ'ba:ɪbətɪv||-'ɑ:ɪ-/ *adj fml* very unattractive or offensive; **REPELLENT**

re-bate /'ri:beɪt/ *n* an official return of part of a payment: *You can claim a rebate on your tax because you didn't work for a full year.* —compare **DISCOUNT**¹ (1)

reb-el¹ /'rebəl/ *n* 1 a person who rebels: *Anti-government rebels have seized the radio station.* | *Tom's always been a bit of a rebel; he hates conforming.* | *rebel tribesmen* | *a rebel stronghold* 2 *AmE* a supporter of the Confederacy in the American Civil War

re-bel² /rɪ'bel/ *v -ll-* [I (against)] to oppose or fight against someone in a position of control: *The people have rebelled against their foreign rulers.* | *children who rebel against authority/against their parents*

re-bel-lion /rɪ'beljən/ *n* [C;U (against)] (an act of) rebelling: *The slaves rose in rebellion against their masters.* | *an armed rebellion* | *The rebellion was ruthlessly put down.* (=stopped) | *The prime minister's determination to pursue this policy led to a rebellion among his own ministers.* —compare **REVOLUTION** (1)

re-bel-lious /rɪ'beljəs/ *adj* disobedient and hard to control; tending to rebel: *rebellious teenagers/behaviour* — *~ly* *adv* — *~ness* *n* [U]

Rebel With-out a Cause /,ri:ˌwɪθ-ˌaʊt ˌə ˈkɔ:z/ an American film with James Dean as a young man from a good home who gets into trouble with the police. James Dean's performance has provided an image of the typical **REBEL** (=someone who opposes authority) since the film first came out in 1955.

re-bind /,ri:'baɪnd/ *v -bound* /'baʊnd/ [T] to put a new **BINDING** (=cover) onto (a book)

re-birth /,ri:'bɜ:θ||-'ɜ:rθ/ *n* [S] *fml* a renewal of life or existence: *The firm had gone bankrupt, but the following year saw its rebirth under a new name.*

re-boot /,ri:'bu:t/ *v* [I;T] to start up (a computer), usu. from a state of not working, or not working properly: *That problem should go away as soon as you reboot.* | *We normally reboot our systems only once every 24 hours.* —**reboot** /'ri:bu:t/ *n*

re-born /,ri:'bɔ:n||-'ɔ:rn/ *adj* [F] *fml* or *lit* (as if) born again: *Our hopes of success were reborn.*

re-bound¹ /rɪ'baʊnd/ *v* [I] 1 to fly back after hitting something: *The ball rebounded from the wall and I caught it.* 2 (esp. of prices, amounts, etc.) to move quickly back to a former level after falling: *Share prices rebounded today after last week's falls.*

rebound on/upon *sbdy. phr v* [T *no pass.*] (of a harmful action) to have a bad effect on (the person who did it): *His lies rebounded on him in the end because no one trusted him any more.*

re-bound² /'ri:baʊnd/ *n* **on the rebound**: a while rebounding: *I caught the ball on the rebound.* *b* (while) in an

unsettled state of mind as a result of unhappiness or a disappointment: *He married her on the rebound, only a few weeks after his previous girlfriend left him.*

re-buff /rɪˈbʌf/ *n fml* an unkind or unfriendly answer to a suggestion, request, or offer of help or friendship; **SNUB**: *Our request for support met with an unexpected rebuff.* — **rebuff** *v* [T]: *She rebuffed all my offers of friendship.*

re-build /ˌrɪˈbɪld/ *v -built* /ˈbɪlt/ [T] to build again or build new parts to: *The house was rebuilt after the fire.* | (fig.) *a political party that wants to rebuild our manufacturing industry* | (fig.) *to rebuild one's confidence after a setback*

re-buke /rɪˈbjuːk/ *v* [T (for)] *fml* to speak to (someone) severely, esp. officially: *The judge rebuked the police for their treatment of the prisoner.* — **rebuken** *n*: *to administer a rebuke*

re-bus /ˈrɪːbəs/ *n* a word game or **PUZZLE** in which words have to be guessed from pictures or letters that suggest the sounds that make them: *“R U 18” is a rebus for “Are you 18?”*

re-but /rɪˈbʌt/ *v -tt-* [T] *fml* to prove the falseness of (a statement or charge); **REFUTE** — **~tal** *n* [C;U]

re-cal-ci-trant /rɪˈkælsɪtrənt/ *adj fml* refusing to obey or be controlled, even after being punished: *recalcitrant children/behaviour* — **trance** *n* [U]

re-call¹ /rɪˈkɔːl/ *v* [T] **1** [not in progressive forms] *rather fml* **a** to bring back to the mind; remember: *I can't recall the exact details of the report.* [+*v-ing* (that)] *I don't recall ever meeting her (that I ever met her).* [+*wh-*] *Do you recall why she left?* **b** to make one remember (someone or something) by being similar: *a style of film-making that recalls Alfred Hitchcock* **2** [(from, to)] to send for or take back: *The government recalled its ambassador after the diplomatic row.* | *The makers have recalled a lot of cars that were unsafe.* — **~able** *adj*

re-call² /rɪˈkɔːl||rɪˈkɔːl, ˈrɪːkɔːl/ *n* **1** [S;U (from, to)] (a) call to return: *the recall of our ambassador* **2** [U] the power to remember something learned or experienced: *John has total recall and never forgets anything.* **3** *beyond/past recall* impossible to be changed

re-cant /rɪˈkænt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to say publicly that one no longer holds (a former political or religious belief): *He recanted (his faith) and became a Muslim/Christian.* | *She recanted her testimony that she had never met the accused man.* — **~ation** /ˌrɪːkænˈteɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re-cap¹ /ˈrɪːkæp/ *v -pp-* [I;T] *infml* to recapitulate: *He recapped on what the teacher had said.* — **recap** *n*

re-cap² /ˌrɪːˈkæp/ *v* [T] *AmE infml* for **RETREAD** — **recap** /ˈrɪːkæp/ *n*

re-ca-pit-u-late /ˌrɪːkəˈpɪtʃəleɪt/ *v* [I;T] to repeat (the chief points of something that has been said); **SUMMARIZE**: *So, to recapitulate, here again are the main reasons why I think we should proceed with the project.* — **~lation** /ˌrɪːkəpɪtʃəˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re-capture /rɪˈkæptʃə/ *v* [T] **1** to get into one's power again; **CAPTURE**¹ (1,2) again: *The police recaptured the escaped criminal.* **2** *lit* to bring back into the mind; cause to be experienced again: *a book that recaptures perfectly the flavour of the period*

re-cast /ˌrɪːˈkɑːst||ˌrɪːˈkæst/ *v -cast* [T] **1** to give a new shape to: *to recast a statue/a sentence* **2** to change the actors in (a play): (fig.) *The cabinet (=most important ministers) has been completely recast in the latest government changes.*

recd *written abbrev. for: received*

re-cede /rɪˈsɪd/ *v* [I (from)] **1** (of a thing) to move back or away: *His hair is beginning to recede from his forehead.* | (fig.) *Hopes for their safety are receding fast.* **2** to slope backwards: *a receding chin*

re-ceipt /rɪˈsɪt/ *n* **1** [C] a written statement that one has received money (or sometimes goods): *Ask the shop for a receipt when you pay the bill.* | *The assistant will make out (=write) a receipt.* **2** [U (of)] *fml* the fact of receiving: *Did you write to acknowledge receipt of their cheque?* | **On receipt of** (=when we receive) *your instructions, we will send the goods.* **3** [C] *old use for RECIPE* **4** **be in receipt of** *pomp* to have received: *We are in receipt of your letter of the 17th.*

re-ceipts /rɪˈsɪts/ *n* [P] money received by a business, bank, etc.: *The bank's receipts have increased since last year.*

re-cei-va-ble /rɪˈsɪvəbəl/ *adj* **1** able or fit to be received **2** *tech* (of a bill or debt) on which money is to be received —compare **PAYABLE** (1)

re-ceive /rɪˈsɪv/ *v* [T] **1** to come into possession of (something that is given or sent to one); get: *to receive a letter/some good news/a lot of attention* | *The lake receives the water from this river.* | *Are you entitled to receive unemployment benefit?* | *We've received a lot of complaints about the new radio programme.* **2** to experience; be the subject of; **UNDERGO**: *to receive a nasty shock/a blow on the head from a falling stone* | *He is receiving specialist medical treatment at a private clinic.* **3 a** to accept as a visitor or member; welcome: *He was received into the Church.* | *She only receives guests on Monday afternoons.* **b** to act in reply to: *How did they receive your suggestion?* (=did they like it, dislike it, accept it, refuse it, etc.?) **4 a** (of a radio or television set) to turn (radio waves) into sound or pictures **b** to be able to hear a radio message sent by: *“Are you receiving me?” “Receiving you loud and clear!”* **5** **For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful** *quote* a prayer sometimes said before a meal **6** **on the re'ceiving end** (of) *infml* suffering (something unpleasant done by someone else): *We were on the receiving end of several complaints.*

re-ceived /rɪˈsɪvd/ *adj* [A] *fml* or *tech* generally accepted or regarded as standard: *The received wisdom (=general opinion) in Washington is that the Defense Secretary will resign.*

Received Pro-nun-ci-a-tion /ˌrɪːsɪvd/ *n* [U] **RP**

re-ceiv-er /rɪˈsɪvə/ *n* **1** the part of a telephone that is held to one's ear —see **TELEPHONE (USAGE)** **2** *fml* or *old-fash* a radio or television set **3** (often *cap.*) (in British law) someone officially appointed to take charge of affairs of someone who is **BANKRUPT** (1): *Their business has failed and is in the hands of the (official) receiver.* **4** a person who buys and sells stolen property **5** (in American football) an offensive player in a position to catch a pass: *wide receiver* (=one near the border of the playing area)

re-ceiv-er-ship /rɪˈsɪvəʃɪp||-vər-/ *n* [U] the duty of the (official) receiver (3): *Due to the recession this company will go into receivership (=be managed by the receiver) as from Monday.*

re-ceiv-ing /rɪˈsɪvɪŋ/ *n* [U] the crime of being a **RECEIVER** (4): *The police charged him with receiving.*

re-cent /ˈrɪːsənt/ *adj* having happened or come into existence only a short time ago: *recent history* | *a news report on the most recent developments in the court case* | *one of the most exciting elections of recent years* | *during his recent visit to China* —see **NEW (USAGE)** — **~ness** *n* [U]

re-cent-ly /ˈrɪːsəntli/ *adv* not long ago; lately: *I've only recently started learning French.* | *I lived in London until quite recently.* | *her recently published autobiography*

re-cep-ta-cle /rɪˈseptəkəl/ *n* *tech* or *fml* a container for keeping things in

re-cep-tion /rɪˈsepʃən/ *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] a particular kind of welcome: *I got a warm/a very friendly reception.* | *The Senator was given a cool/hostile reception by the crowd.* **2** [C] a large formal party: *They're giving/holding a reception to welcome the new ambassador.* **3** [U] the office, desk, or department that receives visitors to a hotel or large organization: *Leave your key at reception/at the reception desk.* | *I'll wait for you in reception.* **4** [U] the quality of radio or television signals: *Radio reception isn't very good here.* **5** [C] a large party after a marriage ceremony held at the **BRIDE's** house, in a restaurant, or in a hotel —see also extra information on page 1402

reception class /ˌrɪːsɪpʃən/ *n* also **reception** — *n* *BrE* a class for children aged four or five who have just started at a school

re-cep-tion-ist /rɪˈsepʃənɪst/ *n* a person who welcomes or deals with people arriving in a hotel or place of business, visiting a doctor, etc.

reception room /ˌrɪːsɪpʃən/ *n* *tech, esp. BrE* a room, esp. a **LIVING ROOM** in a private house that is not a kitchen, bedroom, or bathroom: *According to the estate agent's ad, the house has three bedrooms and two reception rooms.*

re-cep-tive /rɪˈseptɪv/ *adj* [(to)] willing to consider new ideas: *a receptive mind* | *He's not very receptive to my suggestions.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness, -tivity** /ˌrɪːsepˈtɪvɪti/ *n* [U]

re-cess¹ /rɪˈses||ˈrɪːses/ *n* **1** [C;U] a pause for rest during the working day or the working year: *Parliament is in*

- recess now.** | *the summer recess* **2** [U] *AmE* a short pause between classes in a GRADE SCHOOL **3** [C] a space in the wall of a room for shelves, cupboards, etc.; *ALCOVE* **4** [C often pl.] *lit* a secret inner part or place, that is hard to reach: *the inmost recesses of the cave/of her mind*
- re-cess**² /rɪˈses/ *v* **1** [T] to make into or put into a RECESS¹ (3): *a recessed bookshelf* **2** [I] *esp. AmE* to take a RECESS¹ (1)
- re-ces-sion** /rɪˈseʃən/ *n* a period of reduced trade and business activity —compare DEPRESSION (2)
- re-ces-sion-al** /rɪˈseʃənəl/ *n* a HYMN (=holy song) sung at the end of a church service
- re-ces-sive** /rɪˈsesɪv/ *adj tech* (of groups of physical qualities passed on from parent to child) only appearing in the child if also in the GENES of both parents: *Blue eyes are recessive and brown eyes are dominant.*
- re-charge** /ˌrɪːtʃɑːdʒ||-ɑːr-/ *v* [T] to put a new charge of electricity into (a BATTERY): (fig.) *The holiday has really recharged my batteries* (=has made me feel much better). —**recharge** *n*: *These batteries need a recharge.* —**~able** *adj*: *a rechargeable torch*
- re-cher-ché** /rəˈʃeəʃeɪ||rəˈʃeər-, rəˈʃeərˈʃeɪ/ *adj* rare and strange; EXOTIC: *His ideas were too recherché for his audience.*
- re-cid-i-vist** /rɪˈsɪdɪvɪst/ *n tech* a person who keeps going back to a life of crime, even after being punished; an incurable criminal —**vism** *n* [U]
- re-ci-pe** /ˈresɪpi/ *n* [(for)] a set of instructions for cooking a particular type of food: *a recipe for (making) chocolate cake* | *He didn't follow the recipe and the cake came out all wrong.* | *a recipe book* | (fig.) *a recipe for a happy marriage* —compare FORMULA (2)
- re-cip-i-ent** /rɪˈsɪpiənt/ *n* [(of)] *fml* a person who receives something: *the recipient of the letter/of the news/of a grant*
- re-cip-ro-cal** /rɪˈsɪprəkəl/ *adj fml* given and received in return; exchanged between two people or groups; MUTUAL: *a reciprocal trade agreement between two nations* | *They have a reciprocal loathing for/of each other.* —**~ly** /kli/ *adv*
- re-cip-ro-cate** /rɪˈsɪprəkeɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] *fml* to give or do something in return (for): *They invited us to their party, and we reciprocated (their invitation) by inviting them to ours.* | *His dislike of me is entirely reciprocated.* (=I dislike him too.) **2** [I] *tech* (of a machine part) to move backwards and forwards in a straight line, like a PISTON: *a reciprocating engine* —**cation** /rɪˈsɪprəˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]
- re-ci-pro-ci-ty** /ˌresɪˈprɒsɪti||-ˈpraː-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* the exchange of advantages between two groups: *reciprocity in trading rights between two nations*
- re-cit-al** /rɪˈsaɪtl/ *n* [(of)] **1** a performance of poetry or esp. music, given by one performer, or the students of one teacher, or written by one writer: *a piano recital* —compare CONCERT (1) **2** *fml* an account or description: *He gave us a terrible recital of his experiences.*
- re-ci-ta-tion** /ˌresɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of reciting **2** [C] a piece of literature that is recited: *He gives recitations from Shakespeare.*
- re-ci-ta-tive** /ˌresɪˈteɪtɪv/ *n* [C;U] *tech* (a) speech set to music that continues the story of an OPERA (=a musical play) between the songs
- re-cite** /rɪˈsaɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to say (something learned) aloud from memory: *to recite a poem* **2** [T] to give a detailed account or list of; ENUMERATE: *He recited his complaints.* **3** [I] *AmE* to answer a teacher's questions about a lesson —**citer** *n*
- reck** /rek/ *v* [T] *BrE lit* (usu. with **not** or **little**) to care; mind: *They recked nothing/little of the danger.* | *He little recked what might happen.*
- reck-less** /ˈrekləs/ *adj* [(of)] (of a person or their behaviour) not caring or worrying about the possible bad or dangerous results of one's actions; hasty and careless: *It was reckless of him to leave his job before he had another one.* | *reckless driving* | *a reckless disregard of the consequences of their action* | (*fml*) *reckless of danger* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]
- reck-on** /ˈrekən/ *v* [T] **1** to guess; believe as a result of calculating roughly but not exactly: [+*that*] *The experts reckon that about 10,000 tonnes of grain will be needed.* | *How much do you reckon (that) she earns?* [+*obj+to-v*] *The likely cost of the system is reckoned to be about \$100 million.* **2** [+*(that)*; *obj*] *infml* to think; suppose: *I reckon (that) he'll come soon.* | “Can you do it?” “I reckon so.” **3** [often pass; not in progressive forms] *rather fml generally* to consider or regard: [+*obj+to-v/n/adj*] *She was reckoned (to be) a great actress/to have the greatest talent of her generation.* [+*obj+adv/prep*, esp. **among**, **as**] *I reckon him as a friend/among my friends.* **4** [(UP)] *fml* to calculate; add up (an amount, cost, etc.): *My pay is reckoned from the 1st of the month.* | *She reckoned up the cost.*
- reckon** sthg. ↔ **in** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] *fml* to include (in); take (an amount) into account in (a sum): *Have you reckoned in the cost of postage?* | *Have you reckoned the cost of postage in the total?*
- reckon on** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to expect or depend on (something happening or having something); make plans in expectation of: *We're reckoning on a large profit/on your support.* [+*v-ing*] *We didn't reckon on spending so much money on the repairs.*
- reckon with** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to be faced with or opposed by; have to deal with: *If you do that again you'll have the head teacher to reckon with.* **2** to take account of in one's plans: *We hadn't reckoned with the possibility that it might rain.* **3** to be reckoned with to be taken into account seriously as a possible opponent, competitor, danger, etc.: *She's a woman to be reckoned with.* | *The new company is already a force to be reckoned with.*
- reckon without** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to fail to take account of (possible problems) when making a plan; not consider: *When he decided to change his job, he reckoned without the difficulty of selling his house.*
- reck-on-ing** /ˈrekənɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] calculation, esp. rough rather than exact calculation: *By my reckoning, it must be 60 kilometres from here to the coast.* | *I think you're out (=mistaken) in your reckoning.* **2** [C] *old use* a bill: *We paid our reckoning and left.* **3** [U] the calculation of a ship's position —compare DEAD RECKONING; see also DAY OF RECKONING
- re-claim** /rɪˈkleɪm/ *v* [T (from)] **1** to ask for the return of: *You may be entitled to reclaim some of the tax you paid last year.* **2** to make (land) fit for use: *This land was reclaimed from the sea.* **3** to obtain (useful materials) from a waste product: *a firm that reclaims metal from old cars* **4** *fml* to help to behave in a more socially acceptable way, lead a better life, etc.: *Her mission was to reclaim former criminals.* —**reclamation** /ˌrekleɪˈmeɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *land reclamation*
- re-cline** /rɪˈklaɪn/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] *fml* to lie back or down; be or put oneself in a position of rest: *She reclined lazily on the cushions.* | *in a reclining position* **2** [T+*obj+adv/prep*] *fml* to lean (a part of oneself): *She reclined her head against my shoulder.*
- re-cluse** /rɪˈkluːs||ˈrekluːs/ *n* a person who lives alone away from the world and avoids other people; HERMIT
- rec-og-ni-tion** /ˌrekəɡˈnɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of knowing someone or something; recognizing or being recognized: *She hoped she would avoid recognition by wearing dark glasses and a hat.* | *Illness and age had changed her beyond recognition/out of all recognition.* (=made her impossible to recognize) | *a voice recognition system for a computer* **2** [U] the state of being accepted as legal, real, or valuable: *The new government has not yet received recognition from other countries.* | *a young writer struggling for recognition* **3** [S;U (of)] *fml* (a) reward given to show gratefulness: *Please accept this cheque in recognition of/as a recognition of your services.*
- re-cog-ni-zance** /rɪˈkɒɡnɪzəns||-ˈkɑːɡ-/ *n* [U] *law on one's own recognizance* with the promise that one will do what has been asked by a court, e.g. to appear at one's TRIAL: *After the arraignment the men were released on their own recognizance until the trial next month.* —compare BAIL¹ (1)
- rec-og-nize** also **-nise** *BrE* /ˈrekəɡnaɪz, ˈrekən-/ *v* [T not in progressive forms] **1** to know again (someone or something one has seen, heard, or experienced before): *I recognized Mary in the photograph.* | *Dogs recognize people by their smell.* | *The town has changed so much you wouldn't recognize it.* | *The doctor immediately recognized the child's symptoms; she had measles.* **2** [(as)] to accept as being legal or real, or as having value: *They refused to recognize our government/to recognize the union.* | *She is a recognized authority on teaching English* **3** to see clearly though perhaps unwillingly; be prepared to admit: *You must recognize the difficult position the*

company is in. [+ (that)] We recognize that this is an unpleasant choice to have to make. **4** to show official gratefulness for: The government recognized his services by making him a lord. — **nizable** *adj* — **nizably** *adv*

re-coil¹ /rɪ'kɔɪl/ *v* [I] **1** [(from)] to move back suddenly in fear or dislike: She recoiled at the sight of the snake/recoiled from the snake. | (fig.) He tends to recoil from making difficult decisions. **2** (of a gun) to spring back (when fired)

recoil on/upon sbdy. *phr v* [T no pass.] *fml* (of a harmful action) to have a bad effect on (the person who did it): Their dishonest business methods recoiled on them because no one would do business with them any more.

re-coil² /rɪ'kɔɪl, rɪ'kɔɪl/ *n* [S;U] (a) sudden backward movement, esp. of a gun after firing

rec-ol-lect /rɪkə'lekt/ *v* [T not in progressive forms] rather *fml* to call back to mind (something formerly known); remember: Do you recollect her name? [+v-ing/wh-] I don't recollect meeting her/where she lives/how to get there. [+ (that)] I recollect (that) she had red hair. | As far as I (can) recollect, her name is Juliet.

rec-ol-lec-tion /rɪkə'lektʃən/ *n* rather *fml* **1** [U (of)] the power or action of remembering the past; memory: I have no recollection of (=do not remember) meeting him. | Her recollection of the events is rather patchy. **2** [C] something in one's memory of the past: That evening together is one of my happiest recollections. **3** to the best of my recollection if I remember right; I think, but am not sure: To the best of my recollection she drives a Mercedes.

re-com-bi-nant DNA /rɪz,kəm'bɪnənt dɪ'enz 'eɪ-,-kɑ:m-/ *n* [U] DNA that has been taken out of one cell and combined with the DNA of another cell. The cells may come from completely different kinds of living things, such as animals and plants — see also GENETIC ENGINEERING

rec-om-mend /rɪkə'mend/ *v* [T] **1** [(for, as, to)] to praise as being good for a purpose; provide information about (someone or something good): They recommended her for the job/as a good lawyer. | Can you recommend a good hotel (to me)? [+obj(i)+obj(d)] (BrE) Can you recommend me a good hotel? **2** to advise or suggest as a correct or suitable course of action: I recommend caution in dealing with this matter. [+v-ing] He recommends wearing safety equipment. [+that] | The committee has recommended that the training programme (should) be improved. | You shouldn't exceed the recommended dose of the medicine. **3** [(to)] (of a quality) to make (someone or something) attractive: This hotel has nothing to recommend it (to travellers) except cheapness.

rec-om-men-da-tion /rɪkə'men'deɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act of recommending or something (esp. a course of action) that is recommended; advice or suggestion: We bought the car on Paul's recommendation. (=he recommended it) | The government has agreed to implement (=carry out) the recommendations in the report. | We agreed to make a recommendation to the board. **2** [C] a letter or statement that recommends, esp. someone for a job: I wrote him a good recommendation.

rec-om-pense¹ /rɪkəmpens/ *v* [T (for)] *fml* to give a recompense to: We ought to recompense them (for their trouble).

recompense² *n* [S;U (for)] *fml* a reward or payment (for trouble, loss, inconvenience, etc.): They received £1000 in recompense/as a recompense for the damage to their house. — compare COMPENSATION, CONSOLATION

rec-on-cile /rɪkənsaɪl/ *v* [T (with)] **1** to find agreement between (two ideas, situations, etc. that seem to be in opposition): How do you reconcile your political principles with your religious beliefs? | the problem of reconciling all the different versions of this event **2** to bring back friendly relations between; make friendly again: They quarrelled, but now they're completely reconciled. — **cilable** /rɪkən'saɪləbəl/ *adj*

reconcile sbdy. to sthg. *phr v* [T] to cause (someone) to accept (something unwanted or unpleasant): He never became reconciled to the loss of his wife.

rec-on-cil-i-a-tion /rɪkənsɪli'eɪʃən/ also **rec-on-cile-ment** /rɪkənsaɪlmənt/ — *n* [S;U (between, with)] (a) bringing back of friendly relations: There was no hope of a reconciliation between the two families. | a spirit of reconciliation | to effect a reconciliation

rec-on-dite /rɪkəndart, rɪ'kɒn-||rɪkən-, rɪ'kɑ:n-/ *adj fml* (of ideas, knowledge, etc.) not commonly known; difficult

to understand; ABSTRUSE: a recondite subject — **ness** *n* [U]

re-con-di-tion /rɪz,kən'dɪʃən/ *v* [T] to repair and bring back into working order: A reconditioned engine is cheaper than a new one.

re-con-nais-sance /rɪ'kɒnɪsəns||rɪ'kɑ:z-/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) reconnoitring: The patrol made a reconnaissance. | a reconnaissance flight/aircraft

re-con-noi-tre BrE || -ter AmE /rɪkə'nɔɪtəʳ||rɪz-/ *v* [I;T] (of soldiers, ships, or aircraft) to go near (the place where an enemy is) in order to find out the enemy's numbers, position, etc.

re-con-sid-er /rɪz,kən'sɪdəʳ/ *v* [I;T] to think again about (a subject) with the possibility of changing one's mind: She was asked to reconsider her decision to resign. — **ation** /rɪz,kənsɪdə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-con-sti-tute /rɪz'kɒnstɪtju:t||rɪz'kɑ:nstɪtju:t/ *v* [T] **1** to bring back into existence, usu. in a changed form: We decided to reconstitute the committee under a new chairman. **2** to bring back (dried food) into its former condition by adding water: Milk powder has to be reconstituted. | reconstituted potato

re-con-struct /rɪz,kən'strʌkt/ *v* [T] **1** to rebuild after destruction or damage **2** to build up a complete description or picture of (something only partly known): The police are trying to reconstruct the crime from the few clues they have.

re-con-struc-tion /rɪz,kən'strʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] the action, or an example of reconstructing: a reconstruction of an 18th-century village **2** [U] (*cap.*) (1865–77) the period of American history after the Civil War when the southern states, under government and military control, rejoined the US. Slavery was abolished (ABOLISH), black people were given the right to vote, and a few universities were established for black people. Many white southerners strongly opposed these measures and some formed the KU KLUX KLAN. Military control ended in 1877. — see also CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, CIVIL WAR

re-cord¹ /rɪ'kɔ:d||-ɔ:rd/ *v* **1** [T] to write down (a description or piece of information) so that it will be known in the future: I recorded the score in a notebook. | The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death. [+wh-] What became of him/How he died is not recorded. | This is the first recorded case of anyone surviving this disease. **2** [I;T] to preserve (sound or a television broadcast) so that it can be heard and/or seen again: The machine is recording now. | The broadcast was recorded, not live. | Their conversation was secretly recorded. | She has recorded several albums. (=several records of her music have been made) **3** [T] (of an instrument) to show by measuring: The thermometer recorded a temperature of 28 degrees. | Winds of up to 100 kph have been recorded.

rec-ord² /rɪkɔ:d||-ɔ:rd/ *n* **1** [C (of)] a written statement of facts, events, etc.: Keep a record of how much you spend. | (fig.) To set the record straight (=so that the true facts will be known), it was not my decision to do this. **2** [C] the known or recorded facts about the past behaviour or performance of a person, group, company, etc.: John and Peter both have fine military records. | He has a long criminal record. | She's new to the sales department, but her track record (=list of successes) as publicity director is excellent. **3** [C (for)] the best yet done, esp. in sport; the highest/lowest figure ever reached: She set/established a record/broke the record for long distance swimming. | the British long-jump record | She holds the world record for discus throwing. **4** [C (of)] also **gramophone record, disc, LP, album** — a circular piece of plastic on which sound is stored by MECHANICAL means so that it can be played back at any time (on a RECORD PLAYER): Put on/Play another record. | She has made several records of Schubert songs. | a record collection — compare COMPACT DISC **5** [C (of)] something that provides information about the past: Archaeologists dig up the records of ancient civilizations. **6** *tech* a unit of stored DATA on a computer that can be handled in a single operation **7** [U] *fml* the state of being recorded in writing and therefore established as fact: It is a matter of record (=known to be true) that no one has ever failed this examination. **8** for the record declared openly and formally, esp. so as to make known one's disagreement: Just for the record, I think we're making a grave mistake. **9** off the record *infml* unofficial(ly); speaking/spoken privately: My

remarks were off the record and are not to be printed. | Strictly off the record (=I am speaking unofficially), the company is in serious trouble. —see also OFF-THE-RECORD
10 on record: a (of a fact or event) ever recorded: *the coldest winter on record* b (of a person) having publicly said, as if for written records: *He is/went on record as having opposed this law.* | *I'd like to put on record my opposition to this law.* (=state it clearly and have it recorded)

record³ *adj* [A] more, faster, better, etc., than ever before: *a record crop of corn* | *They finished in record time.* | *Sales have reached record levels/a record high.*

record-breaking /'rɪkɔːdbrɪkɪŋ/ *adj* (usu. in sport) going beyond the former RECORD² (3): *a record-breaking speed* —**record-breaker** *n*

recorded de-liv-er-y /'rɪkɔːdɪd'liːvərɪ/ *n* [U] BrE a method of sending mail by which one can get official proof that it has been delivered: *I sent it (by) recorded delivery.* —compare CERTIFIED MAIL

re-cord-er /rɪ'kɔːdə/ || -ɔːr-/ *n* 1 a simple musical instrument of the WOODWIND family, with no REED (2), played by blowing into it; a kind of whistle 2 a TAPE RECORDER 3 (often cap.) a judge in some city courts both in Britain and in the US

re-cord-ing /rɪ'kɔːdɪŋ/ || -ɔːr-/ *n* [(of)] (esp. in broadcasting) a performance, speech, or piece of music that has been recorded: *They made a recording of her voice.* | *some recordings of early Italian music* | *We listened to his latest recording.*

record li-bra-ry /'rɪkɔːd'braɪ/ *n* a collection of RECORDS² (4) for people to borrow, usu. for a small charge

record play-er /'rɪkɔːd'pleɪ/ also **gramophone old-fash BrE** || **phonograph old-fash AmE** — *n* a piece of equipment which can turn the information stored on a RECORD² (4) back into the original sounds, music, etc. —see also STEREO¹ (1)

re-count¹ /rɪ'kaʊnt/ *v* [T] *fml* to tell (a story): *She recounted her adventures.*

re-count² /rɪ'kaʊnt/ *v* [T] to count again: *They had to re-count the votes.*

re-count³ /rɪ'kaʊnt/ *n* a second or fresh count, esp. of votes: *The defeated candidate demanded a recount.*

re-coup /rɪ'kuːp/ *v* [T] 1 to get back; regain (what one has lost or spent): *I recoup my travelling expenses from my employer.* 2 to provide (oneself) again with money: *He stole the diamonds to recoup himself for his gambling losses.*

re-course /rɪ'kɔːs/ || 'rɪkɔːrs/ *n* [U] *fml* the use of someone or something as a means of help: *The company hopes to solve this problem without recourse to* (=without making use of) *further borrowing.* —compare RESORT¹ (2)

re-cov-er /rɪ'kʌvər/ *v* 1 [T] to get back or bring back (esp. something lost or taken away): *The police recovered the stolen jewellery.* | *She recovered consciousness soon after the accident.* | *The company hopes to recover the cost of developing this product within about two years.* | *They are still trying to recover bodies from the wrecked building.* (=find them and get them out) 2 [I (from)] to return to the proper state of health, strength, ability, etc.: *He is very ill and unlikely to recover.* | *recovering from a bad cold* | (fig.) *The country had not yet recovered from the effects of the war.* 3 [T] *fml* to get (oneself or one's senses, powers, etc.) back into a proper or favourable state or position: *He almost fell, but managed to recover himself.* | *She soon recovered herself/her control and went on with her lecture.* — ~ **able** *adj*

re-cov-er /rɪ'kʌvər/ *v* [T] to put a new cover on: *They recovered all the chairs in purple silk.*

re-cov-er-y /rɪ'kʌvəri/ *n* 1 [U] the getting back of something: *the recovery of the stolen jewels* 2 [S (from)] a return to good health, a strong condition, etc.: *She made a quick/speedy recovery from her illness and was soon back at work.* | *Will the government's policies lead to an economic recovery?*

recovery pro-gram /'riːkʌvəri'prɒɡrəm/ *n* AmE a programme that helps people with difficult problems of ADDICTION (=being unable to stop doing or using something harmful e.g. drugs, alcohol, etc.). Recovery programmes, also called **12-step programs**, are very common in the US. Many of the programmes are free and are operated by the people who take part in them.

rec-re-ant /'rekriənt/ *n* old use a cowardly and disloyal person

re-cre-ate /rɪ'kriːeɪt/ *v* [T] 1 to make a copy of: *a Spanish bar which tries to recreate the atmosphere of a typical English pub* 2 to cause to be seen, heard, or experienced again, esp. in the mind: *to recreate the past in one's imagination*

rec-re-a-tion /rɪ'kriːeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (a form of) amusement and enjoyment; way of spending free time: *His only recreations are drinking beer and working in the garden.* | *a recreation programme for senior citizens* — ~ **al** *adj*: *recreational activities/facilities*

▷ **USAGE Recreation** [U] is a general word for what people do in their spare time for amusement and enjoyment. A **recreation** [C] is any particular activity which is done for amusement. Forms of recreation include **sport**, which needs physical effort and is usually played according to rules: *I'm not interested in sport.* | *My favourite sports are tennis and football.* A **game** is either an example of a sport, or an activity in which people compete with each other using their brains: *Let's have a game of tennis/cards.* An important public game is a **match**: *Have you got a ticket for the football match on Saturday?* A **hobby** is a form of recreation which people do on their own, not in order to compete: *Her hobbies are gardening, stamp-collecting, and playing the piano.* ◁

recreation ground /'rɪkriːeɪʃən'graʊnd/ *n* BrE || **playground AmE** — *n* a piece of public land set aside for games: *The children were playing football on the recreation ground.*

recreation room /'rɪkriːeɪʃən'ruːm/ *n* 1 a public room, for example in a hospital, used for social activities 2 AmE also **rec room infml** a room in a house used for playing games in

recreational ve-hi-cle /'rɪkriːeɪʃən'l'vɪkəl/ also **RV** — *n* AmE *tech* a motor vehicle made esp. for recreation, such as camping or travelling with a family. Many states require special LICENSE PLATES for such vehicles, which usu. carry the letters **RV**.

re-crim-i-nate /rɪ'krɪmɪneɪt/ *v* [I (against)] *fml* to make a charge of lying, dishonesty, or other bad behaviour against a person who has already made a charge against oneself — **natory** /nə'tɔːri/ || -tɔːri/ *adj*

re-crim-i-na-tion /rɪ'krɪmɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* [C usu. pl.;U (against)] (an act of) quarrelling and blaming one another: *Let's make friends, instead of wasting our time on recrimination(s) (against each other).* | *The negotiations broke down in an atmosphere of recrimination.*

rec room /'rek ruːm, -rʊm/ *n* AmE *infml* for RECREATION ROOM (2)

re-cru-des-cence /rɪ'kruː'desəns/ *n* [+of] *fml* a sudden fresh reappearance, esp. of something unpleasant: *a recrudescence of urban violence*

re-cruit¹ /rɪ'kruːt/ *n* 1 someone who has just joined one of the armed forces, esp. without being forced to, and is still being trained: *a squad of raw* (=completely untrained) *recruits* 2 [(to)] a new member of an organization: *New recruits to our music club are always welcome.*

recruit² *v* 1 [T] to find in order to employ; get the services of: *We are having difficulties in recruiting well-qualified staff.* | *Most of the teachers there are recruited from abroad.* 2 [I;T] a to get (recruits) for the armed forces b to form (an army, etc.) by doing this: *The King recruited an army.* —compare CONSCRIPT¹ 3 [T] to attract and obtain (someone) as a new member: *to recruit new members to the party/the club* | *a recruiting drive* 4 [I;T] old use or *fml* to regain (one's health, strength, etc.), e.g. by rest and good food — ~ **ment** *n* [U]

recruitment a-gen-cy /'rɪkruːtmənt'ædʒənsi/ *n* a business that makes its money by finding suitable people for employers who need new workers, esp. WHITE-COLLAR workers

rec-tal /'rektəl/ *adj* *med* of the RECTUM — ~ **ly** *adv*

rec-tan-gle /'rektæŋɡəl/ *n* a flat shape with four straight sides forming four RIGHT ANGLES —compare SQUARE¹ (1), and see picture at QUADRILATERAL

rec-tan-gu-lar /rek'tæŋɡjʊlə/ *adj* *tech* in the shape of a rectangle

rec-ti-fi-er /'rektɪfaɪər/ *n* 1 someone or something that rectifies (RECTIFY (1,2)) 2 *tech* an instrument that rectifies (RECTIFY (3))

rec-ti-fy /'rektɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] 1 *fml* to put right: *Please rectify the mistakes in my bill.* 2 *tech* to make pure: *rectified alcohol* 3 *tech* to change (an ALTERNATING CURRENT, or

flow of electricity backwards and forwards along a wire) so that it flows only one way (DIRECT CURRENT) — **fiable** *adj* — **fication** /,rektʃə'fɪən/ *n* [C;U]

rec-ti-lin-e-ar /,rektɪ'liːniə/ *adj fml* or *tech* forming or moving in a straight line; having or made of straight lines

rec-ti-tude /'rektɪ'tjuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* honesty of character; moral correctness

rec-to /'rektəʊ/ *adj, n -tos* [A;C] *tech* (being) a right-hand page of a book: *written on the recto (side)* — compare **VERSO**

rec-tor /'rektər/ *n* **1** (in the Church of England and the Episcopal church) a priest in charge of an area (PARISH) from which he receives his income directly — compare **VICAR** (1) **2** the head of certain colleges and schools, esp. in Scotland

rec-to-ry /'rektəri/ *n* the house where a **RECTOR** (1) lives or used to live

rec-tum /'rektəm/ *n med* the lowest end of the bowels (the **LARGE INTESTINE**) through which solid food waste passes from the **COLON** to the **ANUS** — see also **RECTAL**

re-cum-bent /rɪ'kʌmbənt/ *adj fml* lying down on the back or side: *a recumbent statue/posture*

re-cu-pe-rate /rɪ'kjuːpəreɪt, -'kuz-/ *v* [I;T] to get well again after illness or difficulty; get back (one's health, strength, etc.): *He went to the mountains to recuperate (his strength).* | (fig.) *to recuperate one's financial losses* — **ration** /rɪ'kjuːpə'reɪʃən, -'kuz-/ *n* [U]

re-cu-pe-ra-tive /rɪ'kjuːpəreɪtɪv, -'kuz-/ *adj* helping one to recuperate: *a recuperative holiday*

re-cur /rɪ'kɜːr/ *v -rr-* [I] **1** (esp. of something unpleasant or unwelcome) to happen or appear again, or more than once; return: *If the pain recurs, take these tablets.* | *The memory of the accident often recurs to me.* (=returns to my mind) | *a recurring dream/problem* **2 tech** (of a **DECIMAL**) to be repeated for ever in the same order: *In 5-1515... the figures 15 recur, and the number can be read "5-15 recurring".*

re-cur-rence /rɪ'kʌrəns/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) recurring: *the frequent recurrence/several recurrences of the disease/of a technical fault*

re-cur-rent /rɪ'kʌrənt/ *adj* happening again and again; repeated: *a recurrent problem* | *recurrent pains in the head* — **ly** *adv*

re-cu-sant /'rekjʒənt/ *n, adj old use fml* (someone) refusing to obey official rules or esp. to accept official religious beliefs: *recusant priests*

re-cy-cla-ble /,rɪ:'saɪkləbəl/ *n, adj* (being) a thing that can be recycled: *recyclable plastic bags* | *Separate the recyclables in those boxes over there.*

re-cy-cle /,rɪ:'saɪkəl/ *v* [T] to treat (a substance that has already been used) so that it is fit to use again. People who care about the environment like to recycle things they have finished with to help preserve the earth's natural resources: *The glass from bottles can be recycled.* | *a bag made of recycled paper*

re-cy-cling /,rɪ:'saɪklɪŋ/ *n, adj* [U] (of) the activity of reusing things that have already been used: *The children are very enthusiastic about recycling.* | *Is there a recycling centre =place to take recyclables) around here?*

recycling plant /'riːsɪklɪŋ/ *n* a workplace where materials such as glass or paper which have been used once are prepared for re-use

red ¹ /red/ *adj -dd-* **1** of the colour of blood or fire: *a red rose/dress* | *We painted the door red.* **2** (of human hair) of a bright brownish orange or copper colour **3** (of the human skin) pink, usu. for a short time: *I turned red with embarrassment/anger.* | *The child's eyes (=the skin round the eyes) were red from crying.* **4** (of wine) of a dark pink to dark purple colour **5** *be like a red rag (BrE)/a red flag (AmE) to a bull infml* to be likely to cause uncontrollable anger: *She's an ardent feminist, so jokes about women are like a red rag to a bull to her.* — **ness** *n* [U]

red ² *n* **1** [C;U] (a) red colour: *the reds and yellows of the evening sky* | *You mix red and yellow to make orange.* |

The colour red is often used as a sign of danger, and in signs on roads meaning "stop". **2** [U] red clothes: *dressed in red* **3** *in/into/out of the red in/into/out of debt:* *Your account is in the red.* — opposite **in the black** — see also **paint the town red** (**PAINT**²), see **red** (**SEE**¹)

Red ¹ *adj* **1** *derog* (esp. in newspapers) supporting **LEFT-WING** political ideas; Socialist or Communist: *"Red Ken wins seat in Parliament."* (newspaper report) — compare **PINK**¹ (2) **2** [no comp.] of Communist countries; esp. formerly the Communist countries of Eastern Europe **3** **better Red than dead** a phrase used during the Cold War by some people opposed to **NUCLEAR** weapons, meaning that it would be better to be controlled by a Communist government than to be killed in a nuclear war

Red ² *n derog* **1** for **COMMUNIST** **2** **Reds under the beds** the unreasonable idea that there are secret Communists in public life who are a threat to the state. This phrase was used esp. after the Second World War by those opposed to Joseph McCarthy's unreasonable charges against many people in American public life that they were Communists. — see also **McCARTHYISM**

red ad-mi-ral /,rɪ.'æd.mɪ.rəl/ *n* a **BUTTERFLY** with bright red marks on its black wings, common in Europe and America

red a-lert /,rɪ.'æ.lɜːt/ *n* [C;U] (a condition of readiness to deal with) a situation of sudden great danger: *The hospital services have been put on red alert.*

Red Ar-my /,rɪ.'æ.rɪ/ [the] **1** the Soviet army formed by the **COMMUNIST** government of the former **USSR** in 1918, the idea of which was to make a people's army, the soldiers coming from the workers and the officers being good Communist party men. The word Red was dropped in 1946. **2** a Japanese politically very **LEFT-WING** **TERRORIST** group formed in the 1960s

Red Ar-my Fac-tion /,rɪ.'æ.rɪ.fə.ʃən/ [the] see **BAADER-MEINHOF GANG**

Red Arrows



Red Ar-rows /,rɪ.'æ.rɪ/ [the+P] a team of British fighter aircraft which fly at shows to entertain people

Red Bar-on /,rɪ.'æ.bən/ [the] (1882–1918) a German airman, the **Baron von Richthofen**, who commanded a group of fighter planes during the First World War. The planes were known as Richthofen's Flying Circus because they were red and highly decorated. He shot down more planes (80) than any other pilot and was finally shot down behind enemy lines.

Red Ber-ets /,rɪ.'æ.bɪz/ [the+P] the popular name for the **PARACHUTE** division of the British army, so called because of their red hats

red blood cell /,rɪ.'bʌd.ɪl/ also **red cor-pus-cle** /,rɪ.'kɒr.pəs.kl/ *n* any of the cells in the blood which carry oxygen to every part of the body — compare **WHITE BLOOD CELL**

red-blood-ed /,rɪ.'bʌd.ɪd/ *adj apprec* (of a person or their behaviour) confident and strong; **VIRILE**: *a few red-blooded curses* | *red-blooded males*

red-breast /'redbreɪst/ *n lit* for **ROBIN**

red-brick /'redbrɪk/ *n* (often *cap.*) any of the British universities started in the late 19th century in cities outside London: *Manchester and Leeds are redbricks/are redbrick universities.* — compare **OXBRIDGE**

Red Bri-gades /'rɪ.'brɪ.ɡeɪd/ [the] a **LEFT-WING** extremist **TERRORIST** group operating in Italy from the early 1970s

red card /,rɪ.'kɑːd/ *n* a piece of red card held up by the **REFEREE** of a football match to show that a player is to be sent off the field for carrying out a **FOUL**: *The referee has given/shown him the red card.* | *It's a red card for their top goalscorer.*

red car-pet /,rɪ.'æ.pɪt/ *n* [the] a special ceremonial welcome to



recyclable

an important guest, sometimes involving laying a red carpet on the ground for the guest to walk on: *We'll roll out the red carpet when the President comes.* | *We'll give him the red-carpet treatment.*

red cent /ɪ·'sɪ/ *n* [S] *AmE infml* a very small amount of money: *I wouldn't give you a red cent for that old clunker.* | *not worth a red cent*

Red Chi-na /ɪ·'tʃi·nə/ *infml* for The People's Republic of CHINA

red-coat /'redkəʊt/ *n* 1 a worker at a HOLIDAY CAMP who helps entertain holidaymakers 2 a British soldier during the 18th and 19th centuries

Red Cres-cent /ɪ·'kres·sənt/ [*the*] part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement whose aim is to offer protection and help to people suffering as a result of wars, natural disasters, etc. National Red Crescent Societies are found in many Muslim countries. Its sign, a red CRESCENT, is recognized under the Geneva Conventions and protects the people using it from being attacked or harmed —compare RED CROSS

the symbol for the
Red Crescent



Red Cross /ɪ·'kɒs/ [*the*] part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement whose aim is to offer protection and help to people suffering as a result of wars, natural disasters, etc. Its sign, a red cross on a white background, is recognized under the Geneva Conventions and protects the people using it from being attacked or harmed: *The Red Cross is/are sending medical supplies.* —compare RED CRESCENT and wounded people. Its sign is a red cross on a white background: *The Red Cross is/are sending medical supplies.*

the symbol for the
Red Cross



red-cur-rant /ɪ·red'kʌrənt·-/'kɜːr-/ *n* a small red berry that grows in bunches on a bush: *redcurrant wine*

red deer /ɪ·'diː/ *n* **red deer** a large deer common in northern Europe and Asia, with a reddish brown coat

red-den /'redn/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) turn red: *She reddened with embarrassment.* | *The sunset reddened the clouds.*

Red Dev-ils /ɪ·'dev·lɪz/ [*the*+P] a special British army team who give public performances of SKYDIVING

Red-ding /'redɪŋ/, **O-tis** /'əʊtɪs/ (1941–67) an American popular music singer and songwriter considered to be one of the best SOUL singers. After his death in a plane crash, his records continued to be successful, esp. *Dock Of The Bay*.

red-dish /'redɪʃ/ *adj* slightly red

re-dec-o-rate /rɪː'dekəreɪt/ *v* [I;T] to put new paint, paper, etc., on (the inside of a building): *We must redecorate the bathroom.*

re-deem /rɪ'diːm/ *v* [T] *fml* 1 to carry out; fulfil: *Has the government redeemed all its election promises?* 2 to make free of blame or bring back into favour: *She redeemed herself her reputation with a powerful speech to the party convention.* 3 to make (something bad) slightly less bad: *Olivier's performance redeems an otherwise second-rate production.* | *He's a thoroughly unpleasant man; his one redeeming feature is his honesty.* 4 [(from)] to buy back (something one has given in return for being lent money): *I redeemed my watch from the pawnshop.* 5 *fml* to buy or gain (someone's) freedom: *Christ came to Earth to redeem us from sin.* 6 to exchange for goods or other things of value: *Redeem this coupon for 10p off your next purchase.* — ~ *able adj*

Re-deem-er /rɪ'diːmə/ [*the, our*] *lit* Jesus Christ

re-demp-tion /rɪ'dempʃən/ *n* [U] 1 the action of redeeming or state of being redeemed 2 **beyond/past redemption** *fml* too bad to be saved or improved

redemption cen-ter /·'red·ɪ·pən·tʃən/ *n* *AmE* a place where TRADING STAMPS can be redeemed

Red En-sign /ɪ·'ensɪn/ [*the*] the flag of the British Merchant

Navy, a red flag with the Union Jack in the top left corner
re-de-ploy /ˌrɪzɪˈplɔɪ/ *v* [T] to rearrange (workers, soldiers, equipment, etc.) in a more effective way: *This small school is being closed, but the teachers will be redeployed* (=given new jobs) *in other schools.* — ~ *ment n* [U]

re-de-vel-op /ˌrɪzɪˈveləp/ *v* [T] to rebuild (a building or esp. an area): *The old city centre has been completely redeveloped since the war.* — ~ *ment n* [C;U]

red eye /ɪ·'aɪ/ *n* [U] 1 an unwanted effect in a photograph taken with a flash, in which a person's eyes appear to be red 2 *AmE sl* cheap WHISKEY or other strong spirits 3 *AmE infml* a passenger aircraft making a long-distance flight at night: *He's travelling on the red-eye from New York.*

red-faced /ɪ·'feɪst/ *adj* (having red cheeks because of being) embarrassed or ashamed about something: *After their predictions of easy success, the actual election result left them very red-faced.*

red flag /ɪ·'flæɡ/ *n* 1 [C] a flag of a red colour, used as a danger signal 2 [*the*] (*often cap.*) a the flag of the political LEFT² (2) b the party song of the political LEFT² (4)

Red-ford /'redfəd-/-fərd/, **Rob-ert** /'rɒbət-/'rɔːbərt/ (1937–) an American film actor and DIRECTOR who was in films such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Sting*, and *Out of Africa*. He is popular for his good looks as well as his acting. —see pictures at BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID, GREAT GATSBY

red gi-ant /ɪ·'dʒaɪnt/ *n* a coolish star, near to the middle of its life, larger and less solid than the sun —compare WHITE DWARF

Red-grave /'redgreɪv/, **Sir Mi-chael** /'maɪkəl/ (1908–1985) an English film and theatre actor

Redgrave, Va-nes-sa /və'nesə/ (1937–) an English actress, the daughter of Sir Michael Redgrave. She is active in LEFT-WING politics.

red-hand-ed /ɪ·'hændəd/ *adj* [F] in the act of doing something wrong: *They caught him red-handed while he was just putting the diamonds in his pocket.*

red-head /'redhed/ *n infml* a person, esp. a woman, with RED¹ (2) hair: *He married a beautiful redhead.*

red her-ring /ɪ·'hɜːrɪŋ/ *n* a fact or subject which is introduced to draw people's attention away from the main point

red-hot /ɪ·'hɒt/ *adj* (of metal) so hot that it shines red: *red-hot iron* | (fig.) *red-hot enthusiasm* —compare WHITE-HOT

Re-dif-fu-sion /ˌrɪzɪˈfjuːʒən/ *BrE* a system for sending radio and television programmes to listeners and viewers by using CABLES

Red In-di-an /ɪ·'ɪndiən/ also **Indian**— *n taboo* a NATIVE AMERICAN

re-di-rect /ˌrɪzɪˈdaɪˈrekt, -dʒ-/ *BrE* || **forward** *AmE*— *v* [T] to send in a new direction, esp. to send (a letter) to a different address

re-dis-trib-ute /ˌrɪzɪˈstrɪbjʊt/ *v* [T] to share out again in a different way —**ution** /ˌrɪzɪˈstrɪbjʊʃən/ *n* [U] : *the redistribution of wealth in the country*

Red Leices-ter /ɪ·'leɪsətər/ *n* [U] a type of English cheese

red-let-ter day /ɪ·'letətər deɪ/ *n* a specially happy day that will be remembered: *It was a red-letter day for us when Paul came home from the war.*

red light /ɪ·'laɪt/ *n* a red light used as a danger signal or as a sign that vehicles should stop —compare GREEN LIGHT

red-light dis-tract /ɪ·'laɪt dɪˈstrækt/ *n* the part of a town where one can hire women for sexual pleasure (PROSTITUTES)

Red Light Green Light /ɪ·'laɪt ɡriːn laɪt/ *n* [U] a game played by children in which the leader does not face the other players but calls out "green light" when they are allowed to move towards the finish line and shouts "red light" and turns around when they must stop. If the leader sees anyone moving after he or she has said "red light", that player must go back to the starting line.

Red List /ɪ·'lɪst/ *n* *BrE* a government list of dangerous objects: *It is on the Red List of toxic substances dangerous in water.*

red meat /ɪ·'miːt/ *n* [U] meat from four-legged animals, such as BEEF or LAMB¹ (2) —compare WHITE MEAT

red-neck /'rednek/ *n infml derog, esp. AmE* a man who lives in a country area, esp. one who is uneducated or poor and has strong, unreasonable opinions

redneck



► **CULTURAL NOTE** Rednecks are an American STEREO-TYPE. People think of them as driving PICK-UP TRUCKS, owning and using guns (esp. RIFLES), having SEXIST and RACIST attitudes, and drinking beer. ◀

Red Nose Day /,rɪˈnəʊz/ *BrE* the day in the year on which activities organized by COMIC RELIEF are carried out to raise money for charities (CHARITY). Many people in Britain wear plastic red noses on this day and some people put large red noses on the front of their cars to show their support. —see also COMIC RELIEF

re-do /rɪˈduː/ *v* **-did** /'dɪd/, **-done** /'dʌn/ [T] to do again: *We redid (=repainted) the bathroom in pink.* | *She redid her hair.* | *You'll have to redo this piece of work.*

red-o-lent /'redələnt/ *adj* [F+of] *fml* 1 smelling of: *The kitchen was redolent of onions.* 2 making one think of; suggesting: *an old house redolent of mystery* —**lence** *n* [U+of]

re-doub-le /rɪˈdʌbəl/ *v* [T] to increase (esp. activity) greatly: *The police redoubled their efforts to find the missing child.*

re-doubt /rɪˈdaʊt/ *n tech* a small fort

re-doub-ta-ble /rɪˈdaʊtəbəl/ *adj lit or humor* deserving to be respected and feared: *a redoubtable opponent*

re-dound /rɪˈdaʊnd/ *v*
redound to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* (of an event or action) to have the effect of increasing (fame, honour, etc.): *Any help you can give us will redound to your credit.* (=make people admire you)

red pep-per /,rɪˈpepə/ *n* 1 [U] a hot-tasting powder made from the dried red seed cases of a plant of the pepper family (the CAYENNE PEPPER), used for giving taste to food 2 [C] the red fruit of the CAPSICUM plant, used as a vegetable

re-dress /rɪˈdres/ *v* [T] *fml* 1 to put right (a wrong, injustice, etc.) 2 **redress the balance** to make things equal or fair (again): *Most of the films in this series were directed by men, so in order to redress the balance they are now showing some films by women directors.*

re-dress /rɪˈdres/ *n* [U] *fml* payment for a wrong that has been done; COMPENSATION: *You must seek redress in the law courts for the damage to your car.*

Red Riding Hood see LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Red River /,rɪˈdɪvə/ [the] a long river in the S of the US, which forms part of the border between the states of Oklahoma and Texas. There is a popular American FOLK SONG called *The Red River Valley* which begins: *From this valley they may say you are going ...*

red route /,rɪˈruːt/ *n BrE* a road in a city in Britain, esp. London, where all vehicles are forbidden to park. Red routes were introduced in 1991 to speed up the flow of traffic in busy areas.

Red Rum /,rɪˈdʌm/ a famous British race horse

Red Scare /,rɪˈskeɪ/ [the] an American government action in 1919 and 1920 that deported (DEPORT) foreigners who had recently settled in the US, for fear that they were Communists and would persuade others of the worth of their ideas

Red Sea /,rɪˈsiː/ [the] a sea between NE Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, joined with the Mediterranean Sea (by the Suez Canal) and the Indian Ocean. It is an important

passage for many shipping companies. The Bible tells a story of God parting (PART² (2)) the Red Sea, allowing Moses and the Jews who had been in Egypt to escape by walking across the sea bed. —see colour picture on page 424

red shift /,rɪˈʃɪft/ *n* [U;C] a change in the light pattern given off by stars as they are seen from the Earth, which shows that the stars are moving away, and supporting the BIG BANG THEORY of the universe

Red Shoes /,rɪˈʃuːz/, **The** a FAIRY STORY by Hans Andersen in which an ungrateful little girl is punished when she cannot remove her red shoes, and has to dance in them night and day

red-skin /'red,skɪn/ *n old use, now taboo for NATIVE AMERICAN*

Red Square /,rɪˈskwɛə/ the large square (=broad, open space in a town) in Moscow, known for its processions on May Day when Moscow was the capital of the USSR

red squir-rel /,rɪˈskwɪrəl/ *n* a reddish-brown SQUIRREL which lives in North America and Britain, where it is becoming rare

Red Star /,rɪˈstɑː/ a British parcel and letter delivery service which uses trains to transport the parcels and letters

red tape /,rɪˈteɪp/ *n* [U] *derog* silly detailed unnecessary official rules that delay action: *It took a long time to cut through the red tape of the planning regulations and get the building started.*

re-duce /rɪˈdjuːz/ *v* 1 [T (from, to)] to make less in size, amount, price, degree, etc.: *a promise to reduce taxes* | *a defence policy that reduces the risk of war* | *I bought this shirt because it was reduced (from £12 to £6).* | *He won't reduce the rent of our house.* | *Reduce the sauce by boiling it for ten minutes.* | *The plague reduced the population to half its previous level.* —compare INCREASE; see also REDUCTION 2 [T] old use to defeat and take control of (a place): *By constant bombardment we reduced the citadel.* 3 [I] esp AmE lose weight: *The doctor told me I had to reduce.* | *She won't eat any dessert, she's reducing.* —**reducible** *adj*

reduce sbdy./sthg. to sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to change (something) to (its parts): *We can reduce the report to three main points.* | *The explosion reduced the house to rubble.* 2 [usu. pass.] to bring or force (someone) to (esp. a weaker or less favourable state): *His extraordinary reply reduced me to silence.* | *The captain was reduced to the ranks* (=made an ordinary soldier) *for his disobedience.* | *The child was reduced to tears.* (=made to cry) [+v-ing] *She was reduced to begging for a living.*

reduced cir-cum-stanc-es /,rɪˈdʌstəns/ *n* [P] old-fash euph a poorer way of life than one formerly had: *living in reduced circumstances*

re-duc-ti-o ad ab-sur-dum /rɪˈdʌktɪəʊ æd əb'sɜːdəm/ *n* [U] *Lat* the disproof of a piece of reasoning by showing that it must lead in the end to a silly or unacceptable result

re-duc-tion /rɪˈdʌkʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U (in)] (a case of) making or becoming smaller; the amount taken off in reducing something: *some reduction/a slight reduction in the price of food* | *price reductions* —compare INCREASE 2 [C] a smaller copy of a picture, map, or photograph —opposite enlargement

re-dun-dan-cy /rɪˈdʌndənsi/ *n* 1 [C;U] *BrE* (a case of) being made redundant: *The closure of the export department led to a lot of redundancy/led to over 200 redundancies.* 2 [C;U] *fml or tech* (esp. of words) (a case of) being REDUNDANT (2) 3 [U] *tech* (of something made up of many parts) the quality of containing additional parts that will make the system work if other parts fail: *the redundancy of the English language/of computerized systems*

redundancy pay-ment /,rɪˈdʌndənsi/ *BrE* || **severance pay** *AmE* — *n* a sum of money given by an employer to a worker who is being made redundant. In Britain the amount is usually calculated according to how long the person has worked for the employer. There is a legal MINIMUM redundancy payment for workers who have worked continuously for the same employer for two years.

re-dun-dant /rɪˈdʌndənt/ *adj* 1 *BrE* (of a worker) no longer employed because there is not enough work: *Seventy men at the factory were made redundant because of falling demand for our products.* 2 not needed; more than is necessary: *In the sentence "She lives alone by herself", the*

word "alone" is redundant. | *redundant information/machine parts* — ~ly adv

re-du-pli-cate /rɪ'dju:plɪkeɪt/ || rɪ'du:z/ v [T] fml to make or do again; repeat — **cation** /rɪ'dju:plɪ'keɪʃən/ || rɪ'du:z/ n [U]

red-wood /'redwud/ also **sequoia** — n a CONIFEROUS tree that grows in California. Redwoods attract many tourists because they can grow to more than 100 metres high, and live for many hundreds of years. They are also important for their wood.

Ree-bok /'rɪzbɒk/ || -bɔ:k/ n [P] tdmk a kind of expensive and fashionable sports shoe — see PAIR (USAGE)

re-ech-o /rɪ:'ekəʊ/ v [I;T] to (cause to) be repeated again and again as an ECHO: *Their cries echoed and reechoed among the lonely hills.*

reed /rɪ:d/ n 1 a grasslike plant that grows in wet places: *a roof made of dried reeds* 2 a thin piece of wood or metal in a musical instrument that produces sound by shaking (VIBRATION) when air is blown over it: *reed instruments such as the oboe and bassoon*

Reed, Sir Carol (1906–1976) an English film DIRECTOR, best known for the film *The Third Man*

Reed In-ter-na-tion-al /rɪˌɪnˌtɪˌnəl/ a British company that produces books, magazines, newspapers, travel industry information etc.

re-ed-u-cate /rɪ:'edʒɪkeɪt/ || -dʒə-/ v [T] to train or educate (someone) again: *We should reeducate young criminals (to take their place in society).* — **cation** /rɪ:'edʒɪ'keɪʃən/ || -dʒə-/ n [U]

reed-y /'rɪ:di/ adj 1 (of a sound) thin and high: *a reedy voice* 2 (of a place) full of REEDS (1): *a reedy lake* — **iness** n [U]

reef¹ /rɪ:f/ n a line of sharp rocks, often made of CORAL, or a bank of sand on or near the surface of the sea: *The ship was wrecked on a reef.*

reef² v [T] naut to tie up (part of a sail) so as to make it smaller

reef³ n naut a reduction in the area of a sail made by reefing

ree-fer /'rɪ:fə/ n old-fash infml a cigarette containing the drug MARIJUANA

reefer jack-et /'rɪˌdʒə/ n BrE a man's short close-fitting coat made of thick material

reef knot /'rɪˌfɔːt/ esp. BrE || usu. **square knot** AmE — n a double knot that will not come undone easily

reek¹ /rɪ:k/ n [S] 1 a strong unpleasant smell: *a reek of tobacco and beer* 2 lit or ScotE a thick smoke

reek² v [I] 1 [(of, with)] to smell strongly and unpleasantly: *His breath reeks of onions.* | (fig.) *That whole transaction reeks of dishonesty.* 2 dial to give out smoke: *a reeking chimney*

reel¹ /rɪ:l/ n 1 BrE || **spool** AmE — a round object on which a length of sewing thread, wire, fishing line, recording TAPE¹ (2a), etc., can be wound — compare BOBBIN 2 [(of)] the amount that any of these will hold: *two whole reels of cotton* 3 one of several parts of a cinema film contained on a reel: *They got married at the end of the eighth reel.*

reel² v [T+obj+adv/prep] to bring, take, etc. by winding: *He reeled in his fishing line.* | *Reel some more thread off the machine.*

reel sthg. ↔ **off** phr v [T] infml to repeat (usu. a lot of information) quickly and easily from memory; **RATTLE off**: *He could reel off the dates of all the kings of England.*

reel³ v [I] 1 [+adv/prep] to walk unsteadily, moving from side to side, as if drunk: *He came reeling up the street.* 2 [(BACK)] to step away suddenly and unsteadily (as if) after being hit or receiving a shock: *When I hit him he reeled (back) and almost fell.* 3 to be in a state of shock, confusion, or uncertainty: *All these statistics make my head reel.* | *The party is still reeling from its recent election defeat.* 4 to seem to go round and round: *The room reeled before my eyes and I became unconscious.*

reel⁴ n (the music for) a quick cheerful Scottish or Irish dance

re-e-lect /rɪ:'ɪlekt/ v [T] to elect again: *He has been reelected to Parliament.* — ~ **ion** /'ɪleɪʃən/ n [C;U]: *She is seeking reelection for a third term of office.*

re-en-try /rɪ:'entri/ n [C;U] (an act of) entering again: *The spacecraft made a successful reentry into the Earth's atmosphere.*

Reese's Peanut But-ter Cup /rɪˌsɪz ˌpiːnət bʌtə 'kʌp/ || -bʌtə-/ n tdmk a round CANDY made of chocolate and sweet PEANUT BUTTER

reeve /rɪ:v/ n 1 an English law officer in former times 2 the president of a modern Canadian town council

Reeves /rɪ:vz/, **Jim** /dʒɪm/ (1923–64) a soft-voiced American COUNTRY singer known as "Gentleman Jim Reeves", best remembered for his recording of *He'll Have to Go*

ref¹ /ref/ n infml for REFEREE¹ (1): *Hey, ref, that was a foul!*

ref.² abbrev. for: REFERENCE (4)

re-face /rɪ:'feɪs/ v [T] to put a new surface on (a wall): *The worn stonework on this building must be refaced.*

re-fec-to-ry /rɪ'fektəri/ BrE || **cafeteria** AmE — n a large room in a school, college, etc. in which meals are served and eaten

re-fer /rɪ'fɜː/ v -rr-

refer to phr v [T] 1 (refer to sbdy./sthg.) to mention or speak about: *The scientist referred to the discovery as the most exciting new development in this field.* | *Which companies was she referring to when she spoke of competing firms?* | *The figures in the left-hand column refer to our overseas sales.* 2 (refer to sthg.) to look at for information: *to refer to a dictionary* | *Let me just refer to my notes to find the exact figures.* 3 (refer to sbdy./sthg.) to concern; be directed towards or be RELEVANT to: *The new law does not refer to land used for farming.* 4 (refer sbdy./sthg. to sbdy.) to send or direct to (another place or person) for information, decision, or action: *The shop referred the complaint (back) to the makers of the articles.* | *The professor referred me to an article she had written on this subject.* | *The proposal will have to be referred to the Finance Committee.* — see also CROSS-REFER — ~ **able to** adj

ref-er-ee¹ /rɪfə'riː/ n 1 a judge in charge of some games 2 BrE for REFERENCE (3b) 3 a person who is asked to settle a disagreement

▷ **USAGE** Referee is used in connection with basketball, boxing, football, hockey, lacrosse, rugby, snooker, squash, and wrestling. Umpire is used in connection with badminton, baseball, cricket, swimming, tennis, and volleyball. ◁

referee² v [I;T] to act as referee for (a game): *Who's going to referee (the football match)?*

ref-er-ence /rɪfərəns/ n 1 [C;U (to)] (an example of) mentioning: *When I spoke to him about the expedition, he didn't make any reference to (=mention) your coming with us.* | *King William II was known as "Rufus", a reference to his (=because he had) red hair.* | *Her speech contained only a passing reference to (=a quick mention of) the problem of unemployment.* 2 [C;U (to)] (an example of) looking at something for information: *Use this dictionary for easy reference.* 3 [C] a piece of written information about someone's character, ability, etc., esp. when they are looking for employment: *We will need to have references from your former employers.* | *We will lend you the money if you can provide a banker's reference.* (=a note from the bank to say that you are a trustworthy customer) b a person who provides such information: *Ask your teacher to act as one of your references.* 4 [C] something that tells a reader where the information came from that is used in a piece of writing: *a list of references at the end of the article* 5 **in/with reference to** fml in connection with; about: *With reference to your recent letter, I am instructed to inform you ...* — see also CROSS-REFERENCE, FRAME OF REFERENCE, TERMS OF REFERENCE

▷ **USAGE** A testimonial is usually shown to the person it describes, or made public. A reference is not usually shown to the person, and may be negative. A recommendation is more informal, not always written, usually positive, and made known to the person it describes. ◁

reference book /'rɪfərəns bʊk/ n a book, such as a dictionary, that is looked at when one needs information rather than read from beginning to end

reference li-bra-ry /'rɪfərəns ˌlɪbrəri/ n a collection of books that cannot be taken away but must be studied in the place where they are kept

ref-e-ren-dum /rɪfə'rendəm/ n -da /də/ or -dums [C;U] a direct vote by all the people to decide about something on which there is strong disagreement, instead of the government making the decision. Referendums are legal in Britain but are very rarely used. In the US there is

rarely a national referendum, but states hold them regularly, usu. at the same time as other elections, to test public opinion on sensitive matters: *The government will hold a referendum on whether the electoral system should be changed.* | *The question was decided by referendum.* — compare PLEBISCITE

re-fer-ral /rɪˈfɜːrəl/ *n* [C;U (to)] (a case of) referring or being referred: *a referral of the matter to the Finance Committee*

re-fill¹ /ˌrɪːfɪl/ *v* [T] to fill again: *I'll refill my teapot.* — **~able** *adj*: *a refillable cigarette lighter*

re-fill² /ˌrɪːfɪl/ *n* (a container holding) a quantity of ink, petrol, etc., to refill something: *I bought two refills for my pen.* | (infml) *I can see your glass is empty; would you like a refill?* (=another drink)

re-fine /rɪˈfaɪn/ *v* [T] to make pure: *Oil has to be refined before it can be used.* — **finer** *n*

refine on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to improve (a method, plan, etc.), esp. in details; make refinements to

re-fined /rɪˈfaɪnd/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] made pure: *refined oil/sugar* **2** sometimes derog (of a person or their behaviour) showing, or intending to show education, delicate feeling, and gentleness of manners; GENTEEL: *a refined way of speaking* | *She's so refined that she always eats cake with a little fork.* — opposite **unrefined**

re-fine-ment /rɪˈfaɪnmənt/ *n* **1** [C (on)] an addition or improvement to an existing product, system, etc.: *The new car has many added refinements such as air-conditioning and anti-locking brakes.* **2** [U] the process of making something pure: *the refinement of sugar* **3** [U] the quality of being REFINED (2): *a woman of great refinement*

re-fin-e-ry /rɪˈfaɪnəri/ *n* a building and apparatus for refining metals, oil, sugar, etc.: *a sugar refinery*

re-fit¹ /ˌrɪːfɪt/ *v* -tt- [I;T] **a** (esp. of a ship) to be made ready for further use: *We sailed into port to refit.* **b** to make (esp. a ship) ready for further use, e.g. by doing repairs and putting in new machinery

re-fit² /ˌrɪːfɪt/ *n* [C;U] the process of being refitted: *The yacht needs a refit/is under refit.*

re-flate /rɪˈfleɪt/ *v* [I;T] to increase the supply of money in (a money system) to a former or desirable level

re-fla-tion /rɪˈfleɪʃən/ *n* [U] a POLICY of increasing the amount of money being used in a country, usu. leading to more demand for goods and more industrial activity — compare DEFLATION, INFLATION — **~ary** *adj*

re-lect /rɪˈflekt/ *v* **1** [T] to throw back (heat, light, sound, or an image): *The mirror reflects my face.* | *The mountains were reflected in the lake.* **2** [T not usu. in progressive forms] to express, make clear, or be a sign of; show: *His behaviour reflects his lazy attitude to work.* | *The low value of the dollar reflects growing concern about the US economy.* | *Concern about the economy is reflected in the low value of the dollar.* [+wh-] *Does this letter reflect what you really think?* **3** [I (on)] to think carefully: *After reflecting for a time (on the problem) he decided not to go.*

reflect on/upon *phr v* [T] **1** (reflect on sbdy./sthg.) (of an action or event) to cause to be seen or considered in a particular, usu. unfavourable, way: *The unemployment figures reflect badly on the government's policies.* | *an incident that reflects on* (=causes doubts about) *their honesty* **2** (reflect sthg. on sbdy./sthg.) (of an action or event) to bring (CREDIT¹ (5) or DISCREDIT²) on: *Their prompt action in the emergency reflects great credit on them.*

reflecting tel-e-scope /ˌrɪːflekʃən/ *n* a TELESCOPE (=an instrument for seeing distant objects) in which the image is reflected in a mirror and made bigger — compare REFRACTING TELESCOPE

re-flec-tion /rɪˈflekʃən/ *n* **1** [C] an image reflected in a mirror or similar surface: *We looked at our reflections in the lake.* **2** [U] the reflecting of heat, light, sound, or an image: *The moon looks bright because of the reflection of light.* **3** [C;U (on)] (an idea or statement resulting from) deep and careful thought: *It was interesting to hear her reflections on Indian politics.* | *At first I thought it was a bad idea, but on reflection I realized she was right.* **4** [C (of)] something that shows the effects of, or is a sign of, a particular condition, situation, etc.: *The rising rate of crime is a reflection of an unstable society.* | *Do you think this opinion is an accurate reflection of the public mood?* **5** [S+on] disapproval or an unfavourable judgment, esp. expressed in an indirect way; CRITICISM: *The fact that*

we're dismissing you is no reflection on the quality of your work — we simply can't afford to employ you any more.

re-flec-tive /rɪˈflektɪv/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a person) thoughtful **2** (of clothing or a material) reflecting light: *The cyclist wore a reflective belt/waistcoat so that cars could see her more easily at night.*

re-flec-tor /rɪˈflektə/ *n* a surface that reflects light. Reflectors are often worn or carried for safety reasons by people riding bicycles or walking at night, so that they will be seen by the drivers of vehicles with HEADLIGHTS — see picture at BICYCLE

re-flex /ˈrɪːfleks/ *n* an unintentional movement that is made in reply to some outside influence: *The doctor hit my knee with a hammer to test my reflexes.* | *I can't help shivering when I'm cold — it's a reflex action.* — see also CONDITIONED REFLEX

re-flex-ive /rɪˈfleksɪv/ *n, adj tech* (a word) showing that the action in the sentence has its effect on the person or thing that does the action: *In "I enjoyed myself", "enjoy" is a reflexive/is a reflexive verb, and the pronoun "myself" is a reflexive pronoun.*

re-flex-ol-o-gy /ˌrɪːflekˈsɒlədʒi/ -ˈsɑː-/ *n* [U] a kind of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, in which particular areas of the feet and hands are touched in order to help certain medical conditions

re-for-est /rɪˈfɔːrɪst/ -ˈfɔː-, -ˈfɑː-/ *v* [T] esp. AmE for REAFFOREST — **~ation** /rɪˈfɔːrɪˈsteɪʃən/ -ˈfɔː-, -ˈfɑː-/ *n* [U]

re-form¹ /rɪˈfɔːm/ -ɔːrm/ *v* [I;T] to improve, e.g. by changing behaviour or by removing undesirable qualities: *a plan to reform the tax system and make it simpler and fairer* | *Harry has completely reformed/is a completely reformed character now — he's stopped taking drugs.* — **~er** *n*: *a famous social reformer*

reform² *n* [C;U] (a) change made, esp. to a system or organization, that is intended to improve it, remove unfairness, etc.: *The President has proposed sweeping* (=very big) *reforms of the tax system.* | *a programme of social/economic/educational reform*

re-form /rɪˈfɔːm/ -ɔːrm/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) form again, esp. into ranks: *The army re-formed, ready to attack again.*

ref-or-ma-tion /ˌrefəˈmeɪʃən/ -fər-/ *n* [C;U] (an) improvement; the act of reforming or state of being reformed: *a complete reformation in his character*

Reformation [the] the religious movement in Europe in the 16th century leading to the establishment of the Protestant churches

re-for-ma-to-ry¹ /rɪˈfɔːmətəri/ rɪˈfɔːrmətɔːri/ also **reform school** — *n* old use or AmE for COMMUNITY HOME

reformatory² also **re-for-ma-tive** /rɪˈfɔːmətɪv/ -ˈfɔːr-/ *adj* fml intended to produce reform

Reform Club /ˌrɪːfɔːm/ [the] (in Britain) a gentleman's CLUB¹ (3) in Pall Mall, London, which has a strong association with the Liberal Party

re-form-ist /rɪˈfɔːmɪst/ -ɔːr-/ *adj, n* (a person) in favour of, or suggesting (esp. political) REFORM

reform school /ˌrɪːfɔːm/ *n* AmE for COMMUNITY HOME

re-fract /rɪˈfrækt/ *v* [T] (of water, glass, etc.) to cause (light) to change direction when passing through at an angle — **~ion** /rɪˈfrækʃən/ *n* [U]: *Refraction makes a straight stick look bent if it is partly in water.*

refracting tel-e-scope /ˌrɪːfɔːrɪnt/ *n* a TELESCOPE (=an instrument for seeing distant objects) in which the image is refracted by passing through a LENS (a piece of glass) — compare REFLECTING TELESCOPE

re-frac-to-ry /rɪˈfræktəri/ *adj fml derog* disobedient and troublesome: *a refractory horse*

re-frain¹ /rɪˈfreɪn/ *v* [I (from)] fml to hold oneself back from doing something; not do: *Please refrain from smoking.*

refrain² *n* **1** a part of a song that is repeated, esp. at the end of each VERSE **2** often derog a remark or idea that is often repeated: *Our proposal met with the familiar refrain that the company could not afford such a big investment.*

re-fresh /rɪˈfreʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to make less hot or tired; bring back strength and freshness to: *A hot bath will refresh you.* | *He refreshed himself with a glass of beer.* **2** [I;T] (of computer OUTPUT) to provide again; UPDATE: *This display will not refresh (itself) till you repeat the command.* **3** **refresh one's memory** to cause oneself to remember

again: *I looked at the map to refresh my memory of the route.* **4** refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach a phrase used in advertisements for Heineken LAGER, now often used humorously

re-fresh-er course /rɪ'fʃeɪs/ *n* a training course given to bring someone's knowledge up to date, esp. knowledge needed for a job: *They're holding/attending a refresher course on modern teaching methods.*

re-fresh-ing /rɪ'frefʃɪŋ/ *adj* *apprec* **1** producing a feeling of comfort and new strength: *a very refreshing sleep* **2** pleasantly new and interesting: *It's refreshing to see a film that isn't full of sex and violence.* — *~ly adv*

re-fresh-ment /rɪ'frefʃmənt/ *n* [U] **1** (the experience of) being refreshed **2** food and drink: *We worked all day without refreshment.*

re-fresh-ments /rɪ'frefʃmənts/ *n* [P] food and drinks served as a light meal: *Refreshments will be served after the meeting.*

re-fried beans /'rɪzfraɪd 'bi:nz/ *n* [P] PINTO BEANS which have been boiled and then crushed and fried (FRY), often with onions; usu. eaten with Mexican food

re-fri-ge-rant /rɪ'frɪdʒərənt/ *n* a substance that is used to refrigerate, such as solid CARBON DIOXIDE

re-fri-ge-rate /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪt/ *v* [T] to make (food, liquid, etc.) cold as a way of preserving it: *refrigerated meat* — **ration** /rɪ'frɪdʒə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *The meat was kept under refrigeration.*

re-fri-ge-ra-tor /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪtə/ *n* BrE *fml* or AmE for FRIDGE — see picture at KITCHEN

refrigerator-freez-er /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪtə/ *n* BrE *fml* & AmE for FRIDGE-FREEZER

re-fuel /rɪ'fjuəl/ *v* -ll- BrE || -l- AmE [I;T] to (cause to) fill up again with FUEL: *The aircraft refuelled/They refuelled the aircraft at Cairo.* | *a refuelling stop*

ref-uge /'refju:dʒ/ *n* [C;U (from)] (a place that provides) protection or shelter from danger: *a mountain refuge for climbers* | *The political dissidents sought/took refuge abroad.*

ref-u-gee /rɪ'fjuː'dʒiː/ *n* someone who has been forced to leave their country for political reasons or during a war. Refugees are becoming a political problem in many European countries. Some governments think that many people wanting to become refugees are coming to Europe for economic reasons, and not for their personal safety.

re-ful-gent /rɪ'fʌldʒənt||rɪ'ful-/ *adj* *lit* (of light) very bright; BRILLIANT — **gence** *n* [U]

re-fund /'rɪ:fʌnd/ *n* a repayment; a sum of money refunded: *She took the faulty radio back to the shop and demanded a refund.* | (esp. AmE) *a tax refund*

re-fund /rɪ'fʌnd/ *v* [T (to)] to give (money) in repayment, in return for loss or damage, in order to balance accounts, etc.: *They refunded the cost of the damaged book.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *They refunded us our money when the play was cancelled.* — compare REIMBURSE

re-fur-bish /rɪ'fɜ:bɪʃ||-3:r-/ *v* [T] to make bright, clean and fresh again: *to refurbish an old theatre* | (fig.) *He's going to Paris to refurbish his French.* — *~ment* *n* [U]

re-fus-al /rɪ'fju:zəl/ *n* [C;U] (a case of) refusing: *My offer met with (=was answered with) a cold/a polite refusal.* [+to-v] *Their refusal to negotiate with us made progress impossible.* — see also FIRST REFUSAL

re-fuse /rɪ'fju:z/ *v* **1** [I;T] to state one's strong unwillingness to accept; say no (to): *He asked her to marry him but she refused.* | *She refused his offer.* **2** [T+obj(i)+obj(d)] to not give or allow: *We were refused entry/refused permission to enter.* **3** [T+to-v; obj] to show or state strong unwillingness (to do something): *She flatly refused to have anything to do with the plan.* | *The engine refused to start.* | *I told him to come back but he refused to.* | *I refuse to answer that question.*

▷ USAGE **1** Refuse, decline, reject, and turn down all mean that you do not do something that you are asked to do (opposite **agree to**), or do not take something that you are offered (opposite **accept**). You can **refuse** or **decline** an invitation; **refuse** permission; **decline**, **reject**, or **turn down** a suggestion; **refuse**, **decline**, **reject**, or **turn down** an offer; **reject** or **turn down** a plan or proposal. **2** **Decline** is more polite than **refuse** and not so firm. Compare *I'm afraid I must decline your invitation/decline to answer that question* and *The*

prisoner refused to give his name. **3** You must **decline** in words: *The horse refused (not declined) to jump the fence.* You need not **reject** or **refuse** something in words: *The horse rejected/refused the apple.* ◁

ref-use /'refju:s/ *n* [U] *fml* waste material; RUBBISH: *a heap of kitchen refuse* | *a refuse dump* (=where a town's waste material is put)

re-fuse-nik /rɪ'fju:znɪk/ *n* a Jew in the former USSR who has been refused permission to EMIGRATE, especially to Israel

refuse work-er /'rɪfju:z/ *n* BrE *fml* or *euph* a DUSTMAN

re-fute /rɪ'fju:t/ *v* [T] to prove that (someone or something) is mistaken or incorrect: *I was able to refute him/his argument.* | *to refute the proposition that the world is flat* — **refutation** /rɪ'fju:t'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

▷ USAGE **Refute** is often used simply with the meaning "say (not prove) that an argument or statement is mistaken": *I refute the allegation entirely.* But some people think this is bad English. ◁

re-gain /rɪ'geɪn/ *v* [T] **1** to get or win back: *The football club regained the trophy it had lost the previous year.* | *She is slowly regaining her strength/confidence after the accident.* | *She was unable to regain her balance, and she fell off the wall.* | *The government is fighting to regain control of the rebel-held areas.* **2** *lit* to reach (a place) again: *Shall we regain the shore alive?*

re-gal /'rɪ:gəl/ *adj* *fml* *apprec* very splendid; of, like, or suitable for a king or queen: *regal manners* | *a regal old lady* — compare ROYAL¹ (1) — *~ly adv* : *We were regally entertained.*

re-gale /rɪ'geɪl/ *v*

regale sbdy. with sthg. *phr* *v* [T] to entertain with: *He regaled us with some stories about his youth.*

re-ga-li-a /rɪ'geɪliə/ *n* [U+*sing./pl.* *v*] ceremonial clothes and decorations, esp. those used on official occasions: *royal regalia* | *a mayor's regalia*

re-gard /rɪ'gɑ:d||-ɑ:rd/ *n* [U] *usu. fml* **1** respect; ESTEEM: *I hold her in high/low/the greatest regard.* **2** [+for, to] respectful attention; consideration: *You have no regard for my feelings!* | *The report pays little regard/scant regard to the facts of the case.* **3** connection or relation (in phrases like **in this regard**, **with regard to**): *The company is owned by its staff, and in that regard it is rather unusual.* | *With regard to your recent application, I am afraid we are unable to offer you the job.* **4** *lit* a long look without moving one's eyes — see also REGARDS

regard /rɪ'gɑ:d/ *v* [T not in progressive forms] **1** [+obj+adv/prep] to consider in the stated way: *I have always regarded him highly/with the greatest admiration.* | *She is generally regarded as one of the best writers in the country.* | *We regard these developments with grave concern.* **2** [+obj+adv/prep] *fml* to look at in the stated way: *She regarded him thoughtfully/with suspicion.* **3** [*usu. negative*] *fml* to pay attention to (thoughts, ideas, etc.): *If you fail to regard my warning, you may be sorry.*

re-gard-ful /rɪ'gɑ:dfəl||-ɑ:r-/ *adj* [F+of] *fml* full of respectful attention

re-gard-ing /rɪ'gɑ:dɪŋ||-ɑ:r-/ also as **regards**, **re** — *prep* *fml* (esp. in business letters) on the subject of; in connection with; concerning: *Regarding your recent inquiry ...*

re-gard-less /rɪ'gɑ:dləs||-ɑ:r-/ *adv* **1** *infml* in spite of everything: *They knew it was too expensive, but they went ahead regardless and bought it.* **2** **regardless of** without worrying about or taking account of: *They decorated the house regardless of cost.* | *All our proposals were rejected, regardless of their merits.* — compare IRRESPECTIVE

re-gards /rɪ'gɑ:dz||-ɑ:r-/ *n* [P] **1** good wishes: *Give him my (best) regards.* **2** **with kind/best/warm regards** (a friendly but rather formal way of ending a letter)

re-gat-ta /rɪ'gætə/ *n* a meeting for races between rowing or sailing boats

re-gen-cy /'rɪ:dʒənsi/ *n* [C;U] (a period of) government by a regent

Regency¹ *adj* of the British style (in buildings, furniture, etc.) of the period 1811–1830: *a graceful Regency chair*

Regency² [*the*] the period of British history between 1811 and 1820, when the Prince Regent acted as king — see also PRINCE REGENT

re-gen-e-rate /rɪ'dʒenəreɪt/ *v* [I;T] to give or obtain new life;

form, grow again: *This creature's tail will regenerate if it is cut off.* —see also UNREGENERATE —**ration** /rɪˈdʒənəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *the regeneration of agriculture after the war*

re-gent /ˈrɪdʒənt/ *n* (often *cap.*) a person who governs in place of a king or ruling queen who is ill, absent, or still a child —**regent** *adj* [after *n*]: *the Prince Regent*

Regent Street /ˈrɪˌdʒənt/ a street in the WEST END of London which runs between Oxford Circus and Piccadilly Circus and is a popular place for shopping.

Regent's Park /ˈrɪˌdʒənt/ a park in NW London, open to the public. It is the home of London Zoo and has an open-air theatre where Shakespeare plays are performed in the summer. —see colour map on page 817

reg-gae /ˈregeɪ/ *n* [U] (often *cap.*) a kind of popular music from the West Indies with a strong regular beat, which developed in Jamaica in the 1960s. The songs often have a political message or are about Rastafarianism (RASTAFARIAN). The best known, most successful reggae singer was Bob Marley.

re-gi-cide /ˈredʒɪsaɪd/ *n* 1 [U] the crime of killing a king or queen 2 [C] a person who does this

re-gime /reɪˈʒiːm/ *n* 1 often *derog* a particular (system of) government: *a fascist/military regime* | *Things will change under the new regime.* 2 a regimen

re-gi-men /ˈredʒɪmən/ *n fml* a fixed plan of food, exercise, etc., in order to improve one's health: *I followed a strict regimen.* | *the daily regimen of a ballet dancer*

re-gi-ment 1 /ˈredʒɪmənt/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] 1 a large military group, commanded by a COLONEL: *a cavalry regiment* 2 [(of)] a very large number of living creatures: *a whole regiment of ants*

re-gi-ment 2 /ˈredʒɪmənt/ *v* [T often *pass.*] *derog* to control (people) firmly, forcing them to obey orders: *Modern children don't like being regimented.* | *a regimented society* — **~ation** /ˈredʒɪməntɪˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-gi-ment-al /ˈredʒɪˈmentl/ *adj* of a regiment: *the regimental band*

re-gi-ment-als /ˈredʒɪˈmentlz/ *n* [P] the uniform of a particular regiment: *an officer in full regimentals*

Re-gi-na /rɪˈdʒaɪnə/ *n Lat* 1 [after *n*] (the title used in official writing after the name of a ruling British queen): *Elizabeth Regina* 2 *law* (used, when a queen is ruling, in titles of British law cases) the governing power of the State: *in the action Regina v Smith* (=the state against Smith) —compare REX

re-gion /ˈrɪdʒən/ *n* 1 a particular fairly large area or part, usu. without exact limits: *the southern region of England* | *a tropical region* | *a pain in the region of the heart* | *America's main ally in this region* —see AREA (USAGE) 2 a local government division of Scotland. There are nine mainland regions: Borders, Central, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Grampian, Highland, Lothian, Strathclyde, and Tayside, and three island regions: Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles. —compare COUNTY 1 3 **in the region of** about: *It will cost (somewhere) in the region of \$500.*

re-gion-al /ˈrɪdʒənəl/ *adj* of or in a particular region: *the regional authorities* | *a regional accent* | *regional differences in temperature* — **~ly** *adv*

re-gions /ˈrɪdʒənz/ *n* [the+P] eight areas into which Britain is divided, mainly for statistical (STATISTICS) purposes. The regions are South East, East Anglia, South West, West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, North West, and North. The regions play no part in local government.

re-gis-ter 1 /ˈredʒɪstə/ *n* 1 [C] (a book containing) an official record or list: *By law we are required to keep a register of births and deaths.* | *a school attendance register* | *The electoral register lists everyone who is entitled to vote.* —see also CASH REGISTER 2 the book kept in a church or REGISTRY OFFICE, which a man and woman sign at the end of their marriage ceremony 3 [C] *tech* the range of a human voice or musical instrument: *That note is outside my register/is in the upper register of this instrument.* 4 [C;U] *tech* the words, style, and grammar used by speakers and writers in particular conditions: *Official documents are written in (a) formal register.* 5 *AmE* a movable metal plate that controls the flow of air in a heating or cooling (COOL 2 (1)) system

register 2 *v* 1 [T] to put into an official list or record: *Have you registered the birth of your baby?* | *The car is registered in my name.* | *registered voters* 2 [I] a to enter one's name on a list: *Newly arrived guests must register at the hotel's reception desk.* | *He went to register as unemployed.* b to join officially: *Students must register before they attend classes.* 3 [T] *fml* (of a machine or instrument) to show; record: *The thermometer registered 35°C.* 4 [T] *fml* (of a person or face) to express (a feeling): *She/Her face registered anxiety/surprise.* 5 [T] *fml* to state officially and cause to be recorded: *I wish to register my total opposition to these proposals.* 6 [T] to send by REGISTERED POST: *You'd better register this parcel.* | *a registered letter* 7 [I usu. *negative*] *infml* to have an effect (on a person); be noticed or remembered: *She told me her name but I'm afraid it didn't register.* (=I have forgotten it)

registered dis-a-bled /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstəd/ *adj BrE* on a local authority list of HANDICAPPED people. People who are registered disabled may be given special financial or other help by the government.

Registered Gen-eral Nurse /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstəd/ *n* (in Britain) a fully-trained person who is officially allowed to practise as a nurse —compare STATE ENROLLED NURSE, STATE REGISTERED NURSE

Registered Nurse /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstəd/ also *RN abbrev.* — *n* (in the US) a fully-trained person who is officially allowed to practise as a nurse

registered of-fice /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstəd/ *n* the office of a company to which all letters and notices must be addressed. Every British company must have a registered office, even if it is not based in Britain.

registered post /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstəd/ *BrE* || **registered mail** *AmE* — *n* [U] a postal service which, for an additional charge, protects the sender of a valuable letter or parcel against loss

register of-fice /ˈrɪˌdʒɪstər/ *n* a REGISTRY OFFICE

re-gis-trar /ˌredʒɪˈstraɪər/ || ˈredʒɪˈstraɪr/ *n* 1 a person who is in charge of official records, e.g. in a REGISTRY OFFICE or a college 2 a British hospital doctor who has finished his/her training but is of a lower rank than a CONSULTANT (2)

re-gis-tra-tion /ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃən/ *n* 1 [U] the act of registering: *The registration of students for the course will begin on Thursday morning.* | (*BrE*) *My car is a C registration.* (=was registered in 1985-6) 2 [C] a person or thing that is registered

registration doc-u-ment /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstər/ *BrE* || **registration** *AmE* — *n* an official piece of paper containing details about a motor vehicle and naming its owner: *The registration's in the glove-box, in case you get stopped by the police.*

registration num-ber /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstər/ *n* 1 a number that is connected with a particular registration (2): *We can't find your name without your registration number.* 2 *BrE* the official set of numbers and letters that must be shown on the front and back of a motor vehicle (on the vehicle's NUMBERPLATE)

registration plate /ˌrɪˌdʒɪstər/ *n AustrE, NZE* for NUMBERPLATE

re-gis-try /ˈredʒɪstri/ *n* a place where records are kept

registry of-fice /ˈrɪˌdʒɪstər/ also **register office** — *n* (esp. in Britain) an office where marriages can legally take place and where births, marriages, and deaths are officially recorded. Many people who do not want a church wedding get married in a registry office instead, esp. if they want the wedding to be a small, private event. Practising Christians usu. get married in a church.

reg-nant /ˈregnənt/ *adj* [after *n*] *fml or tech* ruling, esp. (of a queen) in her own right and not as the wife of a king: *queen regnant*

re-gress /rɪˈɡres/ *v* [I] *fml or tech* to go back to a former and usu. worse or less developed condition, way of behaving, etc.: *For a while the boy's disturbed behaviour seemed to be improving, but he regressed when his parents divorced.* —compare PROGRESS 2 — **~ion** /rɪˈɡreʃən/ *n* [U]: *Most people show signs of regression* (=losing memory, sight, etc.) *when they grow old.*

re-gres-sive /rɪˈɡresɪv/ *adj fml or tech* tending to regress or showing regression

regressive tax /-ˈrɪˌdʒɪs/ *n* a tax that takes a larger PERCENTAGE of money from people with low incomes

than from those with high incomes —compare PROGRESSIVE TAX

re-gret¹ /rɪ'gret/ *v* -tt- [T] **1** to feel sorry about (a sad fact or event, a mistake one has made, etc.), and wish it had not happened or was not true: *Later on, I regretted my decision not to take the job.* [+*v*-ing] *We've always deeply regretted selling the farm.* [+*that*] (polite) *I regret that I will be unable to attend.* | (in making threats) *Don't tell the police about this — or you'll regret it!* **2** *fml* to be sorry that one has lost; miss very much: *I don't mind living in the city, but I do regret my horse!* **3** *I/We regret to say/to inform you/to tell you fml* (used when bad news is to follow): *We regret to inform you that you owe the bank £100.* **4** *I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country* *quote* a phrase used by the American Nathan Hale

regret² *n* [U (at)] a feeling of sorrow or unhappiness, often mixed with disappointment (at the loss of something, at a sad event, etc.): *We decided, with some regret/with great regret that we could not offer him the job.* | *I feel no regret at her absence.* | *The prime minister expressed her regret at the failure of the talks.* | **Much to my regret** (=I am sorry to say), *I am unable to accept your invitation.* —see also REGRETS — *~ful adj*: *She said goodbye to her old home with many regretful glances.* — *~fulness n* [U]

re-gret-ful-ly /rɪ'gretfəli/ *adv* **1** in a regretful way **2** REGRETTABLY (2)

▷ **USAGE** **Regretfully** is often used to mean “it is regrettable that”, but many people think this is bad English. <

re-grets /rɪ'grets/ *n* [P] **1** (used in polite expressions of refusal) a note or message refusing an invitation: *Philip sends his regrets.* | *I can't come — please give them my regrets.* **2** **have no regrets** not to feel sorry about what has happened: *He said he had no regrets about leaving the university.*

re-gret-ta-ble /rɪ'gretəbəl/ *adj* *euph* (often used when a stronger word is really meant) that one should feel sorry about; causing regret: *His behaviour at the party was most regrettable.* (=very bad) | *It is regrettable that the government has found it necessary to use such secretive methods.*

re-gret-ta-bly /rɪ'gretəbli/ *adv* **1** in a regrettable manner; to a regrettable degree **2** it is regrettable that: *Regrettably, the cancellation of this order will lead to some job losses.* —see REGRETFULLY (USAGE)

re-group /,rɪ:'gru:p/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) form into new groups or into groups again

reg-u-lar¹ /'regjʊlə/ *adj* **1** happening or appearing with the same amount of time or space between each one and the next; not varying: *the regular tick of the clock* | *His pulse is not very regular.* | *Plant the seeds at regular intervals.* **2** *a* happening, coming, or doing something again and again at the same times each day, week, etc.: *regular readers of this newspaper/users of this bus service* | *regular working hours* | *We hold regular planning meetings.* | *We meet on a regular basis.* | *They keep regular hours.* (=get up and go to bed at the same times each day) *b* (of a person) getting rid of waste food from the bowels often enough: *Eating fruit will keep you regular.* **3** happening (almost) every time: *regular attendance at church* | *his regular failure to meet the deadlines* **4** *usu.* *apprec* evenly shaped: *He has very regular features.* (=of the face) | *A cube is a regular solid.* (=all its sides are the same) **5** proper; correct: *It's not the regular way of spelling this word.* **6** *esp.* *AmE* ordinary; average: *Do you want the regular size or this big one?* **7** (in grammar) following a common pattern: *The verb “dance” is regular, but the verb “be” is not.* —opposite **irregular** (for 1 to 7) **8** [A *no comp.*] professional; not just employed for a time: *the regular army* | *a regular soldier* **9** [A] *old-fash infml* complete; thorough: *He's always ordering us about — he's a regular little dictator.* **10** [A] *esp.* *AmE* *apprec* pleasant and honest: *a regular guy* **11** [no *comp.*] *tech* living under a particular religious rule of life: *Ordinary Roman Catholic priests are not members of the regular clergy, but monks are.* —compare **SECULAR** (3); see also **REGULARLY**, **regular as clockwork** (CLOCKWORK) — *~ity* /,regjʊ'ləriti/ *n* [U]

regular² *n* **1** *infml* a regular visitor, customer, etc.: *a group of regulars drinking in the bar* **2** a soldier who is a member of an army kept by a country all the time **3** [U] *AmE* a petrol that contains LEAD (4) *b* petrol of the

ordinary kind, not HIGH-OCTANE —compare **UNLEADED**

reg-u-lar-ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'regjʊləraɪz/ *v* [T] to make (a state of affairs that has already gone on for some time) legal and official: *After living together for several years they regularized the position and got married.* —**ization** /,regjʊləraɪ'zeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

reg-u-lar-ly /'regjʊləli/ *adv* **1** *a* at regular times: *Take the medicine regularly three times a day.* | *We meet regularly to discuss business.* *b* often and repeatedly: *I regularly get letters from people who have read my books.* **2** evenly: *Her nose is regularly shaped.*

reg-u-late /'regjʊleɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to control, esp. by rules; bring order or method to: *There are strict rules regulating the use of chemicals in food.* | *a well-regulated family* **2** to make (a machine) work at a certain speed, etc.; **ADJUST**: *You can regulate the radiator by turning this little dial.* —see also **DEREGULATE**

reg-u-la-tion /,regjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] an esp. official rule or order: *regulations governing the sale of guns* | *She was fined for driving above the regulation speed.* | *tax/safety regulations* | *I'm fed up with rules and regulations.* **2** [U] control; the bringing of order: *the regulation of public spending*

reg-u-la-tor /'regjʊleɪtə/ *n* an instrument that controls something, such as the part of a clock that controls its speed —see picture at **TYPEWRITER**

reg-u-la-to-ry /'regjʊlətəri/ *adj* *fml* having the purpose of regulating

reg-u-lo /'regjʊləʊ/ *n* *BrE* a degree of heat in a gas cooker, shown by the stated number: *Cook this meat on regulo 4.*

re-gur-gi-tate /rɪ'gɜ:dʒɪteɪt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to bring back (food already swallowed) into the mouth: *Some birds and animals regurgitate (food) to feed their young.* | (fig.) *She just regurgitates everything the teacher says, instead of thinking for herself.* —**tation** /rɪ'gɜ:dʒɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-hab /'ri:hæb/ *v* -bb- *AmE* rehabilitate, esp. sense 2: *He makes a living rehabbing old houses.* —**rehab** /ri:'hæb/ *n*, *adj*: *a rehab program for drug addicts* | *We live in a rehab.* (=rehabbed house)

re-ha-bil-i-tate /,ri:hə'bilɪteɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make (a person) able to live a healthy, useful, or active life again, esp. after being ill or in prison, e.g. by training: *The social services do their best to rehabilitate criminals once they've left prison.* **2** to put back into good condition: *a plan to rehabilitate inner-city areas* **3** to bring back to a former high level, e.g. of rank or in public opinion: *He left the presidency in disgrace, but he/his reputation has now been rehabilitated.* —**tation** /,ri:həbɪlɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *a rehabilitation centre/clinic for drug addicts*

re-hash /ri:'hæʃ/ *v* [T] *infml*, *usu.* *derog* to use (the same ideas) again in a new form which is not really different or better: *a politician who keeps rehashing the same old speech* —**rehash** /'ri:hæʃ/ *n*: *a rehash of an old idea*

re-hears-al /rɪ'hɜ:səl/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an occasion of) rehearsing a play, concert, etc.: *This play still needs a lot of rehearsal(s).* —see also **DRESS REHEARSAL** **2** [(of)] *fml* the telling of events or a story

re-hearse /rɪ'hɜ:s/ *v* **1** [I;T] *a* to practise (a play, concert, etc.) in order to prepare for a public performance: *The actors were rehearsing (the play) until 2 o'clock in the morning.* *b* to cause (someone) to do this: *She rehearsed the musicians.* **2** [T] *fml* to tell fully (events or a story); **RECOUNT**

Rehn-quist /'renkwɪst/, **William H** (1924–) the Chief Justice (=most important judge) of the US Supreme Court since 1986. He has been a member of the Supreme Court since 1972 and is thought to be a **CONSERVATIVE** judge.

re-house /,rɪ:'haʊz/ *v* [T] to put (someone) into a new or better home

Reich /raɪk, raɪx/ *Ger* [the] the German state or kingdom, esp. during any of three particular periods: *The Third Reich lasted from 1933 to 1945.*

Reid /rɪ:d/, **Beryl** (1920–) an English **COMEDIENNE** (=a woman who makes people laugh) and actress, well-known for playing character parts

reign¹ /reɪn/ *n* a period of reigning: *during the reign of George IV*

reign² *v* [I] **1** [(over)] to be the king or queen, esp. without holding real power: *The British Queen reigns but does not*

rule. | *He reigned over a small kingdom.* **2** esp. *lit* (of a state or situation, often an undesirable one) to exist noticeably; **PREVAIL:** *Silence reigned once more after the thunder.* | *After the dictator's death, anarchy and confusion reigned for several years.*

reign-ing /'reɪnɪŋ/ *adj* [A] being the most recent winner of a competition: *the reigning Miss World/Wimbledon champion*

reign of ter-ror /,riːn ɒf 'tɜːr/ *n* a period of political cruelty and widespread official killing of opponents of those in power

re-im-burse /,rɪzɪm'bɜːs/ *v* [T (to, for)] *fml* to pay (money) back to (esp. someone who has had to spend money in connection with their work): *We will reimburse you for your travelling expenses.* | *Your expenses will be reimbursed.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *We will reimburse you your expenses.* —compare **REFUND**² — **~ment** *n* [C;U]

rein¹ /reɪn/ also **reins** *pl.* — *n* **1** a long narrow band usu. of leather, by which a horse, or sometimes a young child, is controlled and guided: *Pull on the reins/the left rein.* —see picture at **HORSE** **2** **give (free) rein to** to give freedom to (feelings or desires): *He gave free rein to his imagination.* **3** **keep a tight rein on** to control firmly: *The finance director keeps a very tight rein on our spending.* —see also **REINS**

rein² *v*

rein sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] to cause (a horse) to stop by pulling the reins

rein sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to cause (a horse) to go more slowly by pulling the reins; **RESTRAIN:** (fig.) *The government is reining in public expenditure.*

re-in-car-nate /,rɪːn'kɑːneɪt/ *v* [T (as) *usu. pass.*] to cause to return to life in a new body, after death: *Perhaps you will be reincarnated as a snake.*

re-in-car-na-tion /,rɪːn'kɑːneɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act or fact of being reincarnated: *Hindus believe in reincarnation.* **2** [C (of)] the person or animal that results: *She thinks she is a reincarnation of Cleopatra.*

rein-deer /'reɪndɪə/ *n* **reindeer** a large deer with long branching horns.

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Reindeer are wild and plentiful in northern Canada and Alaska, where they are sometimes called **caribou**. They are used in the coldest parts of Europe for pulling carriages (**SLEDGES**) across the snow, and many children believe that at **CHRISTMAS** Santa Claus travels in a sledge pulled by reindeer. ◀

re-in-force /,rɪzɪn'fɔːs/ *v* [T] **1** to strengthen (a group, esp. an army) by the addition of men, equipment, etc. **2** to add strength or support to; make stronger or firmer: *to reinforce the elbows of a jacket with leather patches* | *Their arguments are strongly reinforced by the latest trade figures.* | *Newspapers like this tend to reinforce people's prejudices.* —**forcement** *n* [U]: *The wall needs some reinforcement.*

reinforced con-crete /,rɪˌfɔːst'kɒnkrɪt/ also **ferroconcrete** — *n* [U] stonelike material (**CONCRETE**) strengthened by metal rods placed in it before it hardens, and used in building

re-in-force-ments /,rɪzɪn'fɔːsmənts/ *n* [P] more soldiers sent to reinforce an army

Rein-hardt /'raɪnhɑːt/ *n* **Djan-go** /'dʒæŋgəʊ/ (1910–53) a Belgian **JAZZ** musician who played the **GUITAR** with Stephane Grappelli and with many famous American jazz musicians

reins /reɪnz/ *n* [*the+P*] a means or position of control: *Who will take the reins while the boss is in hospital?* | *to hold/take over the reins of government* —see also **REIN**

re-in-state /,rɪzɪn'steɪt/ *v* [T (as, in)] to put back into a former job or position: *He was dismissed, but was later reinstated (as head teacher in his former job).* — **~ment** *n* [C;U]

re-in-sure /,rɪzɪn'ʃʊə/ *v* [T] *tech* to insure again with another insurance company, so that the risk of loss will be shared —**surance** *n* [U]

re-is-sue /,rɪː'ɪʃʊz, -'ɪʃʊz/ *v* [T] to print again after a time: *The book was reissued in a new cover.* —**reissue** *n*: a reissue of stamps

re-it-e-rate /rɪː'ɪtəreɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to repeat several times, in order to make one's position or opinions as clear as possible: *They reiterated their demands for an official inquiry into the accident.* [+that] *Let me reiterate that we have absolutely no plans to increase taxation.* —**ration** /rɪː'ɪtə'reɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

Reith /rɪːθ/, **Lord** (1889–1971) the first manager of the BBC, known for his high standards

Reith lec-tures /,riːθ'lektʃəz/ [*the+P*] a yearly set of talks broadcast on the BBC, given by a person who is very knowledgeable about an important subject

re-ject¹ /rɪː'dʒekt/ *v* [T] **1** to refuse to accept, consider, or use: *She rejected my suggestion.* | *He was rejected for the army because of his bad eyesight.* | *If people are unkind to him he feels rejected.* | *The patient rejected (=his body failed to accept) the transplanted heart.* | *The teachers voted to reject the government's pay offer.* **2** to throw away as useless or imperfect: *Choose the good apples and reject the bad ones.* —see **REFUSE** (**USAGE**)

re-ject² /rɪː'dʒekt/ *n* something rejected, esp. because it is not good enough to be sold

re-jec-tion /rɪː'dʒekʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) rejecting or being rejected: *the rejection of an application* | *I've had so many rejections I've stopped offering to help her.*

re-jig /rɪː'dʒɪg/ *BrE* || **re-jig-ger** /rɪː'dʒɪgə/ *AmE* — *v* -gg- [T] to supply with new equipment or new systems; rearrange, esp. so as to perform different work or to work more effectively: *The factory had to be rejigged to accommodate the new machinery.* —**rejig** /rɪː'dʒɪg/ *n*

re-joice /rɪː'dʒɔɪs/ *v* [I (at, over)] *fml* or *lit* to feel or show great joy: *We rejoiced at/over the good news.* [+to-*v*] *They all rejoiced to hear the happy news.*

rejoice in sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] **1** to have (something that brings happiness): *They rejoiced in their good fortune.* **2** *BrE* **humor** (of a person) to have (a particular name or title, esp. one that is silly or amusing): *He rejoices in the name of Pigg.*

re-joic-ing /rɪː'dʒɔɪsɪŋ/ also **rejoicings** *pl.* — *n* [U (at, over)] *fml* or *lit* great and uncontrolled joy, esp. shown by a number of people: *great rejoicing(s) over the victory*

re-join¹ /,rɪː'dʒɔɪn/ *v* [T] **1** to join together again: *Rejoin the two wires.* **2** to go back to (a group, organization, etc.): *He rejoined his regiment after a week's leave.*

re-join² /rɪː'dʒɔɪn/ *v* [T] to say (something) in reply, esp. rudely or angrily: *"No, I won't!" he rejoined rudely.* —see **ANSWER** (**USAGE**)

re-join-der /rɪː'dʒɔɪndə/ *n* an answer, esp. a rude one: *a sharp rejoinder*

re-ju-ve-nate /rɪː'dʒuːvəneɪt/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to make (someone) feel or look young and strong again: *The mountain air will rejuvenate you.* | (fig.) *They have restored and rejuvenated the derelict theatre.* —**nation** /rɪː'dʒuːvə'neɪʃən/ *n* [S;U]

re-kin-dle /rɪː'kɪndl/ *v* [T] to light (esp. a fire) again: (fig.) *The accident rekindled the public debate on this issue.* (=made it active again)

re-laid /,rɪː'leɪd/ *past tense & participle* of **RELAY**³

re-lapse /rɪː'læps/ || 'rɪːlæps/ *v* [I (into)] to fall back into a bad state of health or way of life, after an improvement; return: *He soon relapsed into his old bad habits.* —**relapse** *n*: *She can't return to work because she's had a relapse.* (=is ill again)

re-late /rɪː'leɪt/ *v* [T (to)] *fml* **1** [(to)] to tell (a story): *He related (to us) the story of his escape.* | **Strange to relate** (=this is surprising), *they never met again.* **2** to show or establish a connection between: *The police are still trying to relate these two pieces of evidence.* | *The report seeks to relate the rise in crime to the increase in unemployment.*

relate to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to concern; be about or be directed towards: *These proposals relate only to agricultural land.* | *secret documents relating to the conduct of the war* **2** to have a connection with: *The cost relates directly to the amount of time spent on the job.* **3** to have a satisfactory relationship with; understand and accept: *She doesn't relate very well to her mother.* | (fig.) *I can't relate to his ideas/music at all.*

Relate a British organization which helps those who have problems with relationships such as marriage. It used to be called the Marriage Guidance Council.

re-lat-ed /rɪː'leɪtɪd/ *adj* [(to)] **1** [F] connected by a family relationship: *She and I are related.* | *I am related to her by marriage.* **2** connected in some way: *The programme deals with drug addiction, juvenile crime, and related issues.* | *The fall in the cost of living is directly related to the drop in the oil price.* —opposite **unrelated** — **~ness** *n* [U]

re-la-tion /rɪˈleɪʃən/ *n* 1 [C] also *relative esp. AmE*— a member of one's family: *close/distant relations* | *They invited all their relations to stay at Christmas.* | *My husband's relations are my relations by marriage.* —see also BLOOD RELATION 2 [C;U (between, to)] RELATIONSHIP (2): *The actual cost bears no/little/some relation to (=matches not at all/not much/partly) what we expected.* 3 [U (of)] *fml* the act of telling a story 4 *in/with relation to fml or pomp* about; with regard to —see RELATIONSHIP (USAGE); see also POOR RELATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS

re-la-tion-al /rɪˈleɪʃənəl/ *adj tech* (of a word) used as part of a sentence but without a meaning of its own: *"Have" in "I have gone" is a relational word.* —compare NOTIONAL (2)

relational da-ta-base /ˌrɪˌleɪʃənəl/ *n* a computer DATABASE which allows a user to find and work with the same information in many different ways

re-la-tions /rɪˈleɪʃənz/ *n* [P (between, with)] 1 way of treating and thinking of each other: *We had/enjoyed friendly relations with the Soviet Union.* | *The relations between our two countries are not good just now.* 2 connections; affairs together: *They have business relations with our firm.* | *After this incident we broke off diplomatic relations with their country.* | *It is believed he had sexual relations with (=had sex with) her.* | *the relations between landlord and tenant* —see RELATIONSHIP (USAGE)

re-la-tion-ship /rɪˈleɪʃənʃɪp/ *n* 1 [C (between, with)] a friendship or connection between people: *My relationship with my boyfriend has lasted six months now.* | *the good relationship between the police and the local people* 2 [C;U (between, to)] (a) connection: *the relationship between wages and prices* 3 [U (between)] the state of being of the same family: *They're both called Smith, but there's no relationship between them.*

▷ USAGE Compare **relationship**, **relation**, and **relations**. All three words can be used to suggest a connection between people or things. **Relationship**, when used of people, suggests a close connection with strong feelings: *her relationship with her husband*. Both **relationship** and **relation** can be used of things that depend on each other: *the relationship/relation between temperature and humidity*. **Relations** can be used of a more formal or distant **relationship** between people or groups: *The local community has good relations with the police.* | *Relations between our countries are improving.* ◀

rel-a-tive¹ /ˈrelatɪv/ *n esp. AmE* a RELATION (1): *My uncle is my nearest/closest living relative.*

relative² *adj* 1 compared to each other or to something else: *the relative costs of building in stone and in brick* | *After his money troubles, he's now living in relative comfort.* | *an atmosphere of relative calm after the recent upheavals* —opposite **absolute** 2 [F+to] *fml* connected (with); on the subject (of); RELEVANT (to): *facts relative to this question* —see also RELATIVELY

relative clause /ˌrɪˌleɪʃənəl/ *n tech* (in grammar) a part of a sentence that has a verb in it, and is joined to the rest of the sentence by **who**, **which**, **where**, etc.: *In "The man who lives next door is a doctor" the words "who lives next door" form a relative clause.*

relative hu-mid-i-ty /ˌrɪˌleɪʃənəl/ *n* [U] the amount of water VAPOUR present in the air, expressed as a PERCENTAGE of the greatest possible amount that could be present. In the US it is often given in weather reports. Very high relative humidity (over 90%) causes discomfort for most people.

rel-a-tive-ly /ˈrelatɪvli/ *adv* quite; when compared to others of the same kind: *The exam was relatively easy.* | *a relatively warm day for the time of year* | *Relatively speaking it's not important.*

relative pro-noun /ˌrɪˌleɪʃənəl/ *n tech* a PRONOUN such as **who**, **which**, **that**, etc., by which a relative clause is connected to the rest of the sentence

rel-a-tiv-i-ty /ˌrelətɪvɪti/ *n* [U] (often *cap.*) a THEORY about the relationships between time, ENERGY, and mass, which change with increased speed: *Einstein's Theory of Relativity*

re-lax /rɪˈlæks/ *v* 1 [I;T] to make or become less active and worried: *Sit down and relax!* | *The music will help to relax you.* 2 [I;T] to make or become less stiff or tight: *His muscles relaxed.* | *She relaxed her hold on the wheel.* 3 [T]

to make (effort or control) less severe: *You must not relax your efforts for a moment.* | *a proposal to relax immigration controls*

re-lax-a-tion /ˌrɪˌlæksəˈtʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U] (something done for) rest and amusement: *He plays the piano for a bit of relaxation.* | *It's one of his favourite relaxations.* 2 [U (of, in)] the act of making or becoming less stiff or severe: *the relaxation of controls on government spending*

re-laxed /rɪˈlæksd/ *adj* 1 (of a person) free from worry; easy in manner: *He was lying in the sun looking very relaxed and happy.* 2 (esp. of a group situation or surroundings) comfortable and informal; restful: *a relaxed atmosphere*

re-lax-ing /rɪˈlæksɪŋ/ *adj* making one feel relaxed: *a relaxing afternoon in the garden*

re-lay¹ /ˈrɪˌleɪ/ *n* 1 [C;U] a part of a team or organization, that takes its turn in keeping an activity going continuously, a fresh group replacing a tired one: *Groups of men worked in relays to clear the blocked railway line.* 2 a relay race 3 a [U] an electrical arrangement or apparatus that receives and passes on messages by telephone, radio, etc.: *The concert was broadcast by relay.* b [C (of)] a broadcast sent out in this way: *We listened to a relay of the concert.*

relay² /ˈrɪˌleɪ/ || *rɪˈleɪ*, *ˈrɪˌleɪ* *v -laid* [T (to)] 1 to send out by RELAY¹ (2): *The broadcast was relayed to Europe.* 2 to pass (a message) from one person to another: *Could you relay the news to the other teachers?*

re-lay³ /ˌrɪˌleɪ/ *v -laid* /ˈleɪd/ [T] to lay (esp. a CARPET or CABLE¹ (2)) again

relay race /ˌrɪˌleɪ ˈræs/ *n* a running or swimming race between two or more teams in which each member of each team runs or swims part of the total distance

re-lease¹ /rɪˈliːs/ *v* [T] 1 [(from)] to set free; let go: *She released the rabbit from the trap.* | *The hijackers released three of the hostages.* | *The aircraft released its bombs.* | *He released (his hold on) her arm.* 2 to press (a handle) so as to allow something to move: *She released the hand-brake of the car.* 3 to allow a (a new film or record) to be shown or sold publicly b (a news story or piece of government information) to be known and printed: *The new trade figures have just been released.*

release² *n* 1 [S;U (from)] the act of setting free or being set free: *After his release from prison he came home.* | *After my examination I had a feeling of release.* 2 [C] a new film, record, or piece of information that has been released: *On this show they play the latest releases.* —see also PRESS RELEASE 3 [C] a letter or message that sets someone free: *The governor of the prison signed the release.* 4 [C] a handle, button, etc. that can be pressed to allow part of a machine to move —see picture at TYPEWRITER 5 *on general release* (of a film) able to be seen at all the cinemas in an area —see also DAY RELEASE COURSE

rel-e-gate /ˈrelɪgeɪt/ *v* [T (to)] to put into a lower or worse place: *We relegated the old furniture to the children's room.* | (esp. BrE) *Everyone was surprised when the football team was relegated (to the second division).* —compare PROMOTE —**gation** /ˌrelɪˈgeɪʃən/ *n* [U (to)]

re-lent /rɪˈlent/ *v* [I] to have or show pity; become less severe or cruel: *At first she threatened to dismiss us all, but later she relented.* | (fig.) *In the morning the storm relented a little.*

re-lent-less /rɪˈlentləs/ *adj* continuously severe: *the relentless fury of the waves* | *relentless pain* | *He was relentless in questioning the suspect.* —*~ly adv*: *He beat the dog relentlessly.* | *We worked relentlessly to finish the job.* —*~ness n* [U]

rel-e-vant /ˈrelɪvənt/ *adj* [(to)] 1 directly connected with the subject: *His nationality isn't relevant to whether he's a good lawyer/isn't a relevant point.* 2 having practical value or importance: *This type of university course is no longer relevant (to today's problems).* —opposite **irrelevant** —*~ly adv* —*-vance, -vancy n* [U (to)]: *What you say has no relevance to the subject.* —opposite **irrelevance**

re-li-a-ble /rɪˈlaɪəbəl/ *adj* that may be trusted; dependable: *She may forget to come — she's not very reliable.* | *I have it on reliable evidence (=I have heard it from someone trustworthy) that the hospital is going to be closed down.* | *a reliable car* | *a reliable source of information* —opposite **unreliable** —*bly adv*: (pomp) *I am reliably informed (=a reliable person told me) that he's deep in debt.* —*-bility*

/rɪˈlaɪəˈbɪlɪti/ *n* [U] —opposite **unreliability**

re-li-ance /rɪˈlaɪəns/ *n* [U (on)] **1** trust: *I place complete reliance on his judgment.* **2** the state of being materially supported; dependence: *our country's reliance on imported oil* —see also **RELY ON**

re-li-ant /rɪˈlaɪənt/ *adj* [F+on] depending on; relying on (**RELY ON**): *We should not be so reliant on imported oil.* —see also **SELF-RELIANT**

re-l-ic /ˈrelɪk/ *n* **1** [(of)] something old that reminds us of the past: *This stone axe is a relic of ancient times.* | (humor) *How much longer are you going to drive around in that old relic?* **2** a part of the body or clothing of a holy person, or something that belonged to them which is kept and respected after their death —see also **RELIQUARY**

re-l-ics /ˈrelɪks/ *n* [P] *lit* someone's dead body: *His relics are buried at Winchester.*

re-l-ict /ˈrelɪkt/ *adj* [A] *tech* remaining in existence after most others of the same type no longer exist

re-l-ief /rɪˈliːf/ *n* **1** [S;U] (a) feeling of comfort at the ending of anxiety, pain, or dullness: *This medicine will give/bring you some relief.* | *a drug for the relief of pain* | *I heaved a sigh of relief when I heard he was safe.* | *You're safe! What a relief!* | *Much to my relief/To my great relief, her injuries were only slight.* | *The funny scenes in Shakespeare provide a little light relief.* (=a pleasant and amusing change) **2** [U] help for people in trouble: *The government sent relief (=money, food, clothes) to the people who lost their homes in the flood.* | *They've started a relief fund for the refugees.* **3** [U] *BrE* || **benefit** *AmE* —a part of one's income on which one does not have to pay tax for some special reason: *He gets tax relief because he supports his old mother.* **4** [U] *AmE* money given by the government to help people who are poor, old, unemployed, etc. **5** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a person or group taking from another the responsibility for a duty: *The relief for the military guard is/are expected soon.* | *a relief driver* | *They had to provide a relief bus because there were so many passengers.* | *The Yankees are bringing in their relief pitcher.* **6** [U+of] the act of driving away an enemy: *the relief of the city* **7** [U] *tech* a legal way of dealing with a problem: *seek relief by taking the matter to court* **8** [C;U] (a shape or) decoration cut so that it sticks out above the rest of the surface it is on, as on a coin: *a carving in high/low relief* (=sticking out a long way/a little) | (fig.) *black trees standing out in bold/sharp relief* (=seeming to stick out) *against the snow* —compare **BAS-RELIEF**, **HIGH RELIEF**

relief map /-ˈ- / *n* a map with the mountains and high parts shown differently from the low parts, esp. by being printed in a different colour

relief road /-ˈ- / *n* *esp. BrE* a road made in order to take away heavy traffic from another road

re-l-ieve /rɪˈliːv/ *v* [T] **1** to lessen (pain, anxiety, or trouble): *a drug that relieves headaches* **2** to take a duty from (someone) as a **RELIEF** (5): *The guard will be relieved at midnight.* **3** to give variety to; make more interesting: *I went for a walk to relieve the boredom of the day.* **4** to drive away the enemy from (a town, fort, etc.) **5** **relieve oneself** *fml euph* to **URINATE** or empty the bowels **6** **relieve one's feelings** to cry, shout, etc., in order to make oneself feel better: *He relieved his feelings by throwing his boots at the cat.*

relieve sbdy. of sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to free (someone) of (something heavy to carry or hard to do): *Let me relieve you of that heavy parcel/of some of the housework.* | (humor) *A thief relieved me of my watch.* (=stole it) **2** [often *pass.*] *euph* to dismiss from (a position): *He was relieved of his employment/his duties.*

re-l-ieved /rɪˈliːvd/ *adj* no longer worried; feeling relief: *Your mother will be very relieved (at the news).* | *She had a relieved look on her face.* [F+to-v|that] *I was relieved (to hear) that they were safe.*

re-li-g-ion /rɪˈlɪdʒən/ *n* **1** [U] belief in the life of the spirit and usu. in one or more gods, esp. the belief that it/they made the world and can control it **2** [C] a particular system of this belief and the worship, behaviour, etc., connected with it: *the Christian religion* | *Islam and Buddhism are two of the great religions of the world.* | (fig.) *Music is a religion with John; he makes a religion of it.*

re-li-gi-ose /rɪˈlɪdʒiəs/ *adj* (of a person) unreasonably or too noticeably religious —**osity** /rɪˈlɪdʒiˈɒsɪti/ -ˈɑːs-/ *n* [U]

re-li-gious /rɪˈlɪdʒəs/ *adj* **1** of religion: *a religious service* | *religious liberty* (=freedom to choose one's religion) **2** (of a person or their behaviour) obeying the rules of a religion very carefully; **PIOUS**: *a very religious man* —opposite **irreligious** **3** [A] performing duties very carefully, as a matter of conscience: *She washes the floor with religious care every morning.*

religious ed-u-ca-tion /-ˈ- -ˈ- / also **religious in-struc-tion** /-ˈ- -ˈ- /, **RE** *abbrev.* — *n* [U] the study of religion at school. In Britain, all children receive some religious education at school. In the US, state schools are not allowed to teach religion on the principle of the **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**.

re-li-gious-ly /rɪˈlɪdʒəsli/ *adv* in a careful and thorough way: *They followed the instructions quite religiously.*

religious ob-serv-ance /-ˈ- -ˈ- / *n* **1** [U] the practice of performing the formal act of one's religion **2** [C] a formal act of religion

religious tol-e-rance /-ˈ- -ˈ- / *n* [U] the idea that other people have a right to practise a religion which is not one's own

re-line /ˈriːˈlaɪn/ *v* [T] to put a new **LINING** (=inside covering) into: *She relined the old coat.*

re-lin-quish /rɪˈlɪŋkwɪʃ/ *v* [T (to)] *fml* to give up (power, position, a claim, etc.): *to relinquish power* | *He relinquished his claim to the land/his hold on my arm.* | *She relinquished all control over the family business to her daughter.*

re-li-qua-ry /ˈrelɪkwəri/ -kwəri/ *n* a container for religious **RELICS** (2)

re-l-ish /ˈrelɪʃ/ *n* **1** [S;U (for)] great enjoyment, esp. of food; pleasure and satisfaction: *He drank up the wine with relish.* **2** [C;U] (a) substance eaten with a meal, such as **PICKLES** or **SAUCE**, to add taste and interest

re-l-ish *v* [T] to enjoy; be pleased and satisfied with: *He didn't relish the prospect of having to explain his behaviour.* [+v-ing] *Hilary won't relish having to wash all those dishes.*

re-live /ˈriːˈlɪv/ *v* [T] to experience again, esp. in the imagination: *She relived her school days in conversation with an old friend.*

re-load /ˈriːˈləʊd/ *v* [I;T] to load (a gun) again

re-lo-cate /ˈriːləʊˈkeɪt/ -ˈləʊkeɪt/ *v* [I;T] to move to or establish in a new place: *The factory has been relocated into the Bristol area.* | *We're relocating into the Bristol area.* —**cation** /ˈriːləʊˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-luc-tant /rɪˈlʌktənt/ *adj* unwilling, and therefore perhaps slow to act: *reluctant helpers* | *He gave a reluctant promise.* [F+to-v] *They were very reluctant to help.* (=but probably did help) —**ly** *adv*: *She reluctantly accepted the money.* —**tance** *n* [S;U (+to-v)]: *He agreed, but with great reluctance/with a certain reluctance.*

re-ly /rɪˈlaɪ/ *v*

rely on/upon sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to trust (esp. that something will happen or someone will do something); have confidence in: *You can't rely on the weather.* (=it may well be bad) | *I think I can come, but don't rely on it.* | *We're relying on your discretion.* [+v-ing] *Don't rely on going to India.* (=perhaps you won't) [+obj+v-ing] *Rely on my/me doing it.* | *Don't rely on the bank lending you the money.* (=perhaps they won't) [+obj+to-v] *You can rely on me to help you.* **2** [(for)] to be materially supported by; depend on: *They have to rely on the river for their water.*

REM /rem/ *n* [U] *abbrev. for* **RAPID EYE MOVEMENT**

re-main /rɪˈmeɪn/ *v* [not *usu. in progressive forms*] **1** [I] *rather fml* to stay or be left behind after others have gone, been lost, etc.: *She remained at home to look after the children when her husband went out.* | *Little of the original architecture remains.* | *The only remaining question is whether or not we can raise the money.* [+to-v] *Several things remain to be done.* | *It only remains for me to say that ...* (=All that is left for me to say is ...) | *It sounds a good idea, but it remains to be seen* (=we shall know later on) *whether it will succeed.* **2** [I+adv/prep;L] to continue to be (in an unchanged state): *He remained a prisoner for the rest of his life.* | *The situation remains unchanged.* | *Despite the danger, she remained calm/she remained in complete control.* | *I'm sorry you're tired, but the fact remains* (=in spite of that) *that the job has to be done, so hurry up!* —see **STAY (USAGE)**

re-main-der ¹ /rɪˈmeɪndə/ *n* [(the) S+sing./pl. v] 1 what is left over; the rest: *The remainder of the food will do for tomorrow.* | *Ten people in our class are Arabs and the remainder are Germans.* 2 in DIVISION (5), the number undivided that is smaller than the DIVISOR: *Fifteen divided by six equals two, with a remainder of three.*

remainder ² *v* [T usu. pass.] to sell (esp. books) cheap so as to get rid of them quickly

re-mains /rɪˈmeɪnz/ *n* [P] 1 [(of)] parts which are left: *the remains of dinner/of an old castle* 2 fml a dead body: *His remains lie in the churchyard.*

re-make /rɪˈmeɪk/ *v* -made /ˈmeɪd/ [T] to make (esp. a film) again — **remake** /ˈrɪːmeɪk/ *n*: *They're doing a remake of "Gone with the Wind".*

re-mand /rɪˈmaɪnd/ *v* [T usu. pass.] BrE to send back to prison from a court of law, to be tried later after further inquiries have been made (often in the phrase **remanded in custody**) — **remand** *n* [C;U]: *He's on remand.* (=in prison waiting for a trial). One of the problems of the prison service in Britain is that remand prisoners have to live in the same conditions as people who have already been convicted (CONVICT) of a crime, often for quite a long time, even though they may be completely INNOCENT.

remand home /ˈrɪːmənd hoʊm/ *n* BrE an institution, also called a **remand centre**, where JUVENILE offenders wait to appear in court, esp. formerly — see also COMMUNITY HOME

re-mark ¹ /rɪˈmɑːk/ *v* [T+that; obj] to say esp. something that one has just noticed; give as an opinion: *He remarked that it was getting late.* | *"It's getting late," he remarked.*

remark on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] fml to notice and say or write something about: *Everyone remarked on his absence.*

remark ² *n* 1 [C (about, on)] a spoken or written opinion; COMMENT: *Don't make/pass rude remarks about her appearance.* 2 [U] fml notice; attention: *Her strange appearance could hardly escape remark/was worthy of remark.*

re-mar-ka-ble /rɪˈmɑːkəbəl/ *adj* [(for)] esp. apprec worth mentioning, esp. because unusual or noticeable: *a most remarkable sunset/coincidence* | *Finland is remarkable for the large number of its lakes.* — opposite **unremarkable**

re-mar-ka-bly /rɪˈmɑːkəbli/ *adv* (used esp. with adjectives and adverbs) unusually; noticeably: *He sings remarkably well.* | *a remarkably fine day* | *Remarkably, he's never been abroad.*

re-mar-ry /rɪˈmæri/ *v* [I;T] to marry again: *He decided to remarry after his wife's death.* | *She remarried her former husband.*

re-mas-ter /rɪˈmɑːstə/ *v* -mæs-/ to make a new and better original (MASTER¹ (5)) from which copies can be made: *remaster an old recording*

Rem-brandt /ˈrembrænt/ (1606–69) a Dutch painter, considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time, who drew many pictures of himself and other people, as well as religious subjects, and is known esp. for his use of light and shade — **esque** /ˈrembrænˈtesk/ *adj*

re-me-di-a-ble /rɪˈmiːdiəbəl/ *adj* fml or tech that can be put right or cured — opposite **irremediable**

re-me-di-al /rɪˈmiːdiəl/ *adj* curing or helping; providing a remedy: *He had to do remedial exercises for his weak back.* | *remedial teaching* — **ly** *adv*

remedial class /ˈrɪːmɪdiəl klɑːs/ *n* a class in some schools where children who have difficulty with reading, writing, or other skills are given special help

rem-e-dy ¹ /ˈremɪdi/ *n* [C;U (for, against)] a way of curing something: *A good night's sleep would be the best remedy for your headache.* | *herbal remedies* | *Such evils are beyond/past remedy.* | *The law provides no remedy for this injustice.* (=cannot put it right)

remedy ² *v* [T] to put or make (something bad) right: *How can we remedy this situation/injustice/mistake/loss?*

re-mem-ber /rɪˈmembə/ *v* [not usu. in progressive forms] 1 [I;T (as)] to (be able to) bring back to one's mind (information, past events, etc.); keep in the memory: *"What's her name?" "I can't remember."* | *I'll always remember that wonderful day.* | *I remember her as* (=I think she was, if my memory is correct) *rather a tall*

woman. [+ (that)] *She suddenly remembered that she had not locked the door.* [+wh-] *Can you remember where he lives/how to get there?* [+v-ing] *I don't remember agreeing to that.* | *Certainly I posted your letter — I remember posting it.* [+obj+v-ing] *Do you remember me asking you that same question?* 2 [I(about);T] to take care not to forget: *Did you remember that book I asked you for?* (=have you got it for me?) | *You will remember about watering the plants, won't you?* [+to-v] *"You will remember to post my letter, won't you?" "Yes, I'll remember."* | *Please remember to water the plants while I'm away.* — opposite **forget** (for 1,2) 3 [T] often euph to give money or a present to: *She always remembers me at Christmas.* | *He remembered me in his will.* (=left me some money after his death) 4 [T] to think about with special respect and honour: *On this day we remember the dead of two world wars.* | *I'll remember you in my prayers.* (=pray for you) 5 **Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason, and plot** *quote* the first lines of a children's poem about the plan by Guy Fawkes and others to destroy the Houses of Parliament by an explosion — see also GUY FAWKES NIGHT 6 **we will remember them** a phrase used esp. during the religious service on Remembrance Day in Britain, when people remember those who died in the two world wars

▷ **USAGE** Note the difference between **remember +v-ing** and **remember +to-v**. *I remember locking the door as I left the house.* (=I locked the door and can call this event to mind now.) | *I remembered to lock the door as I left the house.* (=It was in my mind then that I must lock the door, and I locked it.)

remember sbdy. to sbdy. *phr v* [T] infml to send greetings from (someone) to: *Please remember me to your mother.* | *He asked to be remembered to you.*

re-mem-brance /rɪˈmembrəns/ *n* [(of)] 1 [U] the act of remembering: *A church service was held in remembrance of those killed in the war.* 2 [C] old-fash something kept or given to remind one: *He gave me his photograph as a remembrance (of him).*

Remembrance Day /ˈrɪːmbrəns deɪ/ also **Remembrance Sun-day** /ˈrɪːmbrəns sʌndeɪ/ *n* [C;U] the Sunday nearest to November 11th, when people in Britain remember those killed in the two world wars. Services are held in churches, and at war MEMORIALS, and the custom is to wear a red paper POPPY (=a type of flower) in one's buttonhole, as a sign of remembering. The money raised by the sale of these poppies is given to charities (CHARITY) involved with people who suffered in the wars. A few people think that these customs make war seem GLORIOUS, rather than being a reminder of the deaths and the damage that was done, and these people wear a white poppy as a sign of peace. — compare VETERANS DAY; see also ARMISTICE DAY

re-mind /rɪˈmaɪnd/ *v* [T (of)] to tell or cause (someone) to remember (a fact, or to do something): *I must write to Mother — will you remind me?* | *I've forgotten his name — will you remind me of it?* | *Don't remind me of that awful day — I made such a fool of myself!* | *Will you remind me about that appointment.* [+obj+to-v] *Remind me to write to Mother.* [+obj+that] *She reminded me that I hadn't written to Mother.* | *The sight of the clock reminded me that I was late.*

remind sbdy. of sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to appear to (someone) to be similar to: *This hotel reminds me of the one we stayed in last year.*

re-mind-er /rɪˈmaɪndə/ *n* something that makes one remember: *He hadn't paid the bill, so the shop sent him a reminder.* (=a letter reminding him to pay)

rem-i-nisce /ˈremɪˈnɪs/ *v* [I (about)] to talk or think about past experiences, esp. pleasant ones: *The two old friends were reminiscing (about their youth).* — **niscence** *n* [U]: *to enjoy the pleasures of reminiscence*

rem-i-nis-cence /ˈremɪˈnɪsənsɪz/ *n* [P (of)] a spoken or written account of one's own life: *We had to listen to his reminiscences of the war.* — compare MEMOIRS

rem-i-nis-cent /ˈremɪˈnɪsənt/ *adj* 1 [F+of] that reminds one of; like: *This hotel is reminiscent of the one we stayed in last year.* | *a taste reminiscent of chicken* 2 [A] thinking about the past; remembering something: *a reminiscent smile.*

re-miss /rɪˈmɪs/ *adj* [F] fml careless about a duty; showing lack of care or attention: *It was remiss of me not to* (=I was remiss because I did not) *answer your letter.* | *He has been remiss in his work.* — **ness** *n* [U]

re-mis-sion /rɪ'mɪʃən/ *n* 1 [C;U] *BrE* (a) lessening of the time a person has to stay in prison. This is possible in Britain because prison sentences are often only **ADVISORY**, and even people who are guilty of very serious crimes such as **RAPE** may be allowed out of prison before they have served the full amount of time advised by the court: *The prisoner was given six months' remission for good behaviour.* 2 [C;U] a period when an illness is less severe for a time: *He/The disease went into remission last month.* 3 [U] *fml* the remitting (**REMIT**¹ (1)) of a debt or punishment: *Christians pray for the remission of sins.* (=that their **SINS** will be forgiven)

re-mit¹ /rɪ'mɪt/ *v* -tt- *fml* 1 [T] to free someone from (a debt or punishment) 2 [I;T (to)] to send (money) by post: *Please remit payment/remitted by cheque immediately.* — compare **UNREMITTING**

remit sthg. to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to send back to for a decision or other action: *The proposal has been remitted to the executive committee.*

re-mit² /'rɪzɪt/||rɪ'mɪt, 'rɪzɪt/ *n* [U] *BrE fml* the area over which one has judgment or control: *It is not part of the committee's remit to investigate government policy.*

re-mit-tance /rɪ'mɪtəns/ *n* 1 [C] an amount of money remitted: *He sends her a small remittance each month.* 2 [U] *fml* the remitting of money: *We will forward the goods on remittance of £10.*

rem-nant /'remnənt/ *n* 1 [(of)] a part that remains: *We fed the remnants of the feast to the dogs.* 2 a small piece of cloth left over from a larger piece and sold cheap: *a remnant sale*

re-mod-el /,rɪz'mɒdl/||,rɪz'mɑːdl/ *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [T] to change the shape of: *an actress who had her nose remodelled*

re-mon-strance /rɪ'mɒnstrəns/||rɪ'mɑːn-/ *n* [C;U] (at, against) *fml* (a) complaint: *loud cries of remonstrance*

rem-on-strate /'remənstreɪt/||rɪ'mɑːn-/ *v* [I (against, with)] *fml* to complain; express disapproval: *I remonstrated against his behaviour.* | *She remonstrated with him* (=complained to him) *about his behaviour.*

re-morse /rɪ'mɔːs/||-ɔːrs/ *n* [U] great sorrow and a feeling of guilt for having done wrong: *He felt/was filled with remorse after hitting the child.* — ~ *ful adj* — ~ *fully adv*

re-morse-less /rɪ'mɔːsləs/||-ɔːr-/ *adj* 1 showing no remorse: *remorseless cruelty* 2 threateningly unstoppable: *The avalanche continued its remorseless descent down the mountainside.* — ~ *ly adv* — ~ *ness n* [U]

re-mote /rɪ'məʊt/ *adj* [(from)] 1 distant in space or time: *remote stars* | *the remote future* 2 quiet and lonely; far from the city: *a remote village in the hills* 3 widely separated (from); not close: *remote cousins* | *The connection between these two ideas is very remote.* 4 (esp. of a chance or possibility) slight: *I haven't the remotest idea* (=don't know at all) *what you mean.* | *I'm afraid your chances of success are rather remote.* 5 (of behaviour) not showing interest in others: *Her manner was polite but remote.* — ~ *ness n* [U]

remote con-trol /-,-,-/ *n* 1 [U] a system for controlling machinery from a distance by radio signals 2 [C] an apparatus that does this: *Pass me the remote control so I can change the TV channel.* — **remote-controlled** *adj*: *a remote-controlled model car*

re-mote-ly /rɪ'məʊtli/ *adv* [*usu. in negatives*] to a very small degree; at all: *She isn't remotely interested in what you're saying.*

re-mould /,rɪz'məʊld/ *v* {T} *BrE* to **RETREAD** — **remould** /'rɪz'məʊld/ *n*

re-mount¹ /,rɪz'maʊnt/ *v* 1 [I;T] to get onto (a horse or bicycle) again; climb (a ladder, hill, etc.) again: *He remounted (his horse) and rode away.* 2 [T] to fix (a picture, photograph, etc.) on a new piece of cardboard (**MOUNT**² (1))

re-mount² /'rɪz'maʊnt/ *n* a fresh horse

re-mov-al /rɪ'muːvəl/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) removing: *a charity organizing the removal of supplies to famine-stricken areas* | (*fml*) *our removal* (=change of house) *to London* | *No one could account for the removal of the desk from the room.*

removal van /-,-,-/ also **moving van** *AmE* — *n* a large covered vehicle (**VAN**) used for moving furniture when moving from one house to another

re-move¹ /rɪ'muːv/ *v* 1 [T (from)] to take away (from a place) or take to another place: *Remove (=take off) your hat.* | *He removed the child from the class.* 2 [T (from)] to get rid of: *He removed the mud from his shoes.* | *an operation to remove the tumour* 3 [T (from)] *fml* to dismiss: *That officer must be removed (from his position).* 4 [I (from, to)] *fml* to go to live or work in another place: *Our office has removed to Harlow from London.* 5 *once/twice/etc., removed* (of **COUSINS**) different by one, two, etc., **GENERATIONS** (2): *My second cousin once removed is the child of my second cousin.* 6 *removed from* distant from: *What you say is far removed from what you said before.* — **removable** *adj*: *Are the spots removable?*

remove² *n* 1 [C] (always with a statement of number) a stage or degree (in phrases like (at) **only one remove from, several removes from**): *Their action was only (at) one remove from (=was very nearly) revolution.* 2 [*the*] (*often cap.*) a class in some British schools into which pupils are put because they have not made enough progress to go into the next higher one. Pupils at British schools usually go up to the next class each September, when the new school year starts, the system being based on age, not ability. It is only in some independent or private schools that pupils must reach a certain standard before moving up.

re-mov-er /rɪ'muːvə/ *n* [C;U] (*usu. in comb.*) a chemical for cleaning off an unwanted substance: *a bottle of paint-remover* | *finger nail polish remover*

re-mu-ne-rate /rɪ'mjuːnəreɪt/ *v* [T (for)] *fml* to reward; pay (someone) for work or trouble — **ration** /rɪ'mjuːnə'reɪʃən/ *n* [S;U]: *You will receive (a small) remuneration.*

re-mu-ne-ra-tive /rɪ'mjuːnərətɪv/||-nərətɪv/ *adj fml* (of work) well-paid; profitable — ~ *ly adv*

Remus see **ROMULUS AND REMUS**

re-nais-sance /rɪ'neɪsəns/||,renə'sɑːns-/ also **re-nas-cence** /rɪ'næsəns/- *n* a renewal of interest in some particular kind of art, literature, etc.

Renaissance [*the*] the period in Europe between the 14th and 17th centuries, when the art, literature, and ideas of ancient Greece were discovered again and widely studied, causing a rebirth of activity in all these things — compare **MIDDLE AGES**

Renaissance man /-,-,-/||-,-,-/ **Renaissance wom-an** /-,-,-/||-,-,-/ *fem.* — *n* a person with interests and skills in many subjects, esp. in both the arts and the sciences

re-nal /'riːnl/ *adj med* of the **KIDNEYS**

re-name /rɪ:'neɪm/ *v* [T+obj (+n)] to give a new name to: *The street has been renamed (Silver Lane).*

re-nas-cent /rɪ'næsənt/ *adj fml* (of an idea or feeling) starting again after being absent

Ren-ault /'renəʊ||rə'nɔːlt/ *tdmk* a French company that makes cars that are sold in many countries and are quite popular in Britain, such as the **Renault 5**: *I'm thinking of buying a Renault.*

rend /rend/ *v* **rent** /rent/ [T] *lit* 1 [(APART)] to divide by force; split: *She wept and rent her garments.* | (fig.) *A terrible cry rent the air.* 2 [+obj+adv/prep] to pull violently: *She was rending her hair out in anger.* — see also **HEARTRENDING**

Ren-dell /'rendl/, **Ruth** (1930—) an English writer whose short stories and **NOVELS** are often about the reasons for murder. Some of her books have been filmed for television.

ren-der /'rendə/ *v* [T] *fml* 1 [+obj+adj] to cause to be: *His fatness renders him unable to touch his toes.* 2 [(to)] to give: *You will be expected to render an account of money that is owed.* | *Let us render thanks unto God.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *You have rendered me a service.* 3 to perform: *She rendered the song beautifully.* 4 *tech* to put **PLASTER** or **CEMENT** onto (a wall)

render sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to make (fat) pure by melting

render sthg. **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to translate into (a language): *a copy of the Bible rendered into Gujarati*

render sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T (to)] 1 *fml* to say (a prayer) 2 *old use* to give up to an enemy: *They rendered up their city to the conqueror.*

ren-der-ing /'rendərɪŋ/ *n* 1 [C] esp. *BrE* for **RENDITION** 2 [U] a material made mainly of **CEMENT** and **SAND**, used to protect outside walls of buildings

- ren-dez-vous** ¹ /'rɒndəʒvuː, -deɪ-/ *n* -vous /vuːz/ 1 [(with)] (an arrangement for) a meeting at a certain time and place: *He made a rendezvous with his girlfriend.* 2 [(for)] a popular place for people to meet: *This club is a rendezvous for writers.*
- rendezvous** ² *v* -voused /vuːd/ [I (with)] to meet by arrangement: *The two spacecraft rendezvoused successfully.*
- ren-di-tion** /ren'dɪʃən/ also **rendering** *esp. BrE* — *n* 1 a performance of a play or piece of music: *She gave a splendid rendition of the song.* 2 a translation of a piece of writing: *an English rendition of a Greek poem.*
- ren-e-gade** /'renɛɡeɪd/ *n derog, esp. lit* a person who deserts one country or belief to join another; **TRAITOR**
- re-nege**, **renegade** /rɪ'neɪɡ, rɪ'neɪɡ||rɪ'nɪɡ, rɪ'nɪɡ/ *v* [I] 1 [(on)] *fml* to break a promise: *He reneged on his contract.* 2 (in card games) to **REVOKE** (2)
- re-new** /rɪ'njuː||rɪ'nuz/ *v* [T] 1 to repeat (an action): *In the morning the enemy renewed their attack.* 2 to give new life and freshness to; make as good as new again: *I came back from my holiday with renewed strength.* 3 to replace (something old) with something new of the same kind: *I must renew my library ticket.* 4 to obtain a further period of lending for (something borrowed from a library): *I must renew these books.* — *~al* *n* [C; U]
- re-new-a-ble** /rɪ'njuːəbəl||rɪ'nuz-/ *adj* 1 that can be renewed, *esp.* by natural processes or good management: *Sun, wind, and waves are renewable sources of energy.* 2 that must be renewed: *This ticket is renewable after 12 months.*
- Ren-frew-shire** /'renfruːʃə/ a former **COUNTY** in central Scotland, now part of Strathclyde **REGION**
- ren-net** /'renɪt/ *n* [U] a substance used for thickening milk to make cheese, etc.
- Re-no** /'rɪ:nəʊ/ a city in Nevada, US, known for gambling (**GAMBLE**), legalized **PROSTITUTION**, and the fact that it is easy to obtain a **DIVORCE** there without living there for any great length of time
- Re-no, Janet** /'dʒæni/ (1938–) a government lawyer from Florida who became US Attorney General in 1993
- Ren-oir** /'renwɑːr||rən'wɑːr/, **Jean** /ʒə'n||ʒɑːn/ (1894–1979) a French film **DIRECTOR** whose films include *La Grande Illusion* and *Le Règle du Jeu*
- Renoir, Pi-erre Au-guste** /pi'eəʃ ɔː'ɡjuːst/ (1841–1919) a French painter who helped to form the **IMPRESSIONIST** movement. He is known for his bright, colourful style of painting — see colour picture on page 1016
- re-nounce** /rɪ'naʊns/ *v* [T] *rather fml* 1 to give up (a claim); say formally that one does not own: *He renounced his claim to the property.* 2 to say formally that one has no more connection with: *He renounced his religion and became a Muslim.* — see also **RENUNCIATION**
- ren-o-vate** /'renəveɪt/ *v* [T] to put back into good condition by repairing, rebuilding, etc.: *The old house is being renovated.* — **-vation** /,renə'veɪʃən/ *n* [C; U]
- re-nown** /rɪ'naʊn/ *n* [U] fame: *He won renown as a painter.* | *a painter of some/great/high renown*
- re-nowned** /rɪ'naʊnd/ *adj* [(as, for)] well known to the general public or to a limited group of people for a particular quality, skill, invention, etc.: *Edison was renowned as an inventor/renowned for his inventions/was a renowned inventor.*
- rent** ¹ /rent/ *n* [C; U] 1 (a stated sum of) money paid regularly for the use of a room, building, television set, piece of land, etc.: *They let the house to a young man.* | *We pay a high/low rent.* | *They'll have to pay more/less rent.* | *a rent collector* — see also **GROUND RENT** 2 *esp. AmE* money paid in this way for the use of a car, boat, clothes, etc.
- rent** ² *v* 1 [T (from)] to pay rent for the use of: *I rent a room from Mrs Jones.* 2 [T (to, out)] *esp. AmE* || *let esp. BrE* — to give the use of (a room, building, etc.) in return for rent: *She rents (out) rooms to students.* | *We've rented our house to some French people.* 3 [I+at, for] (of a building, land, etc.) to bring in rent: *This house rents at £100 a month.* 4 [T] *esp. AmE* to pay money for the use of (a car, boat, etc.) for a short time; **HIRE**: *I'll need to rent a tuxedo/car.* 5 **Rent-a...** used in the names of companies whose business is renting things to people: *Rent-a-van* | *Rent-a-tent* — *~able* *adj* — *~er* *n*
- rent** ³ *n* a large tear (as if) in cloth: *several great rents in the curtains*
- rent** ⁴ *past tense & participle of REND*
- rent-al** /'rentl/ *n* 1 a sum of money fixed to be paid as rent: *Have you paid this month's television rental?* 2 *AmE* something rented: *These cars are for sale and those over there are rentals.* | *Are there any summer rentals (=houses to rent) in this area?*
- rent book** /'rɪ. -/ *n* a book stating the amounts and times of payment of **RENT** ¹ (1) for a property, etc., usu. kept by the person paying it
- rent boy** /'rɪ. -/ *BrE* || **hustler** *AmE* — *n* a young male **PROSTITUTE**, often a boy who is homeless and needs to earn money for food
- rent con-trol** /'rɪ. -/ *n* [U; C] laws, usu. local, that limit how often and how much **LANDLORDS** may increase rent
- rent-free** /'rɪ. -/ *adv, adj* (used) without payment of rent: *He lives there rent-free.* | *a rent-free house*
- ren-ti-er** /'rɒntɪɪ||'rɑːntɪɪ/ *n* *Fr, often derog* a person who lives without working, on **INVESTMENTS** (=money lent and bringing in an income)
- Ren-to-kil** /'rentəukɪl/ a company in Britain which works on buildings *esp.* to protect them from harmful insects or decay of the wooden parts
- rent strike** /'rɪ. -/ *n* a refusal to pay rent by all the people living in a block of flats or group of houses, usually as a protest against the amount of rent charged, or to complain about conditions
- re-nun-ci-a-tion** /rɪ,nʌnsi'eɪʃən/ *n* [C; U] (an act of) renouncing (**RENOUNCE**) something
- re-o-pen** /rɪ:'əʊpən/ *v* [I; T] to (cause to) open or begin again: *School reopens next week.* | *New evidence has come to light, so the police will have to reopen the case.* | *Talks between the two countries have reopened.*
- re-or-gan-ize** also **-ise** *BrE* /rɪ:'ɔːɡənaɪz||-'ɔːr/ *v* [I; T] to **ORGANIZE** (something) again, perhaps in a new way: *She reorganized the room.* (=changed the position of the furniture) | *The managing director reorganized the department and made several promotions.* — **-ization** /rɪ:'ɔːɡənaɪ-'zeɪʃən||rɪ:'ɔːrgənə-/ *n* [U]
- rep** ¹ /rep/ *n* *informal* for **SALES REPRESENTATIVE**: *Our rep will call on Monday.*
- rep** ² *n* *informal* 1 [C] a **REPERTORY** theatre or company: *the local rep* 2 [U] **REPERTORY**: *She acts in rep.*
- rep** ³ *n* *AmE* *informal* **REPUTATION**: *Showing up drunk blew my rep with Linda's parents.*
- Rep** *written abbrev. for:* **REPUBLICAN**
- re-paid** /rɪ'peɪd/ *past tense & participle of REPAY*
- re-pair** ¹ /rɪ'peə/ *v* [T] 1 to make (something worn or broken) work again; mend: *a crew of workmen repairing the road* | *My watch has broken — I'll have to have it repaired.* | *We'll have to get a new car — the gear box can't be repaired.* 2 *fml* to put right (a wrong, mistake, etc.): *How can I repair the wrong I have done her?* — see also **IRREPARABLE** — *~able* *adj* — *~er* *n*
- repair to sthg.** *phr v* [T] *fml* to go to (a place), often or in large numbers: *We all repaired to a restaurant and drank coffee together.*
- repair** ² *n* 1 [C often *pl.*; U] (an act of) mending something: *The garage is carrying out repairs to my damaged car.* | *The road is under repair.* (=being mended) | *I'm afraid this old radio is beyond repair.* (=too badly broken to be mended) 2 [C] a mended place: *a neat repair on the elbow of the coat* 3 in (a) good/bad (state of) repair in good/bad condition
- rep-a-ra-ble** /'repərəbəl/ *adj* [*usu. in negatives*] (of a wrong, mistake, etc.) that can be put right — opposite **ir-reparable**
- rep-a-ra-tion** /,repə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U (to, for)] *fml* repayment for loss or wrong: *You must make reparation for the damage.*
- rep-a-ra-tions** /,repə'reɪʃənz/ *n* [P] money paid by a defeated nation after a war
- rep-ar-tee** /,repə:'tiː||,repər'tiː/ *n* [U] (the ability to make) quick amusing answers in conversation: *I enjoy listening to their witty repartee.*
- re-past** /rɪ'pɑːst||rɪ'pæst/ *n* *fml* a meal
- re-pat-ri-ate** /rɪ:'pætriət||rɪ'peɪ-/ *v* [T (to)] to bring or send (someone) back to their own country — **-ation** /,rɪ:'pætri-'eɪʃən||,rɪ:peɪ-/ *n* [U]

re-pay /rɪˈpeɪ/ *v* **-paid** /ˈpeɪd/ [T] **1** [(to)] to return (what is owed) to (someone); pay back: *I've repaid the loan (to the bank).* | *When will you repay me?* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *I repaid her the £10 she lent me.* **2** [(by, for, with)] to reward: *We must repay their hospitality/them for their hospitality.* | *He repaid their kindness with insults/by stealing their camera.*

re-pay-able /rɪˈpeɪəbəl/ *adj* (of money) that can or must be paid back: *The debt is repayable in 30 days.*

re-pay-ment /rɪˈpeɪmənt/ *n* [C;U] paying back; something paid back: *a/some small repayment for all you have done* | *The repayments of the loan are spread over 25 years.*

re-peal /rɪˈpiːl/ *v* [T] to put an official end to (a law) — **repeal** *n* [U]

re-peat ¹ /rɪˈpiːt/ *v* **1** [T] to say or do again: *Please repeat that word.* [+ (that)] *He repeated several times that he was busy.* | *"I'm busy", he repeated.* | *Repeat after me, "I must not be a naughty boy."* | *Can you repeat this experiment?* | *to repeat a course/a year in school* (=remain in the same class) | *to repeat an order in business* (=supply the same article again) **2** [T] to say (something heard or learnt) to others: *She repeated the poem.* | *Don't repeat what I told you.* **3** [I] *BrE infml* (of food that one has eaten) to be tasted afterwards in the mouth: *I find that onions repeat.* **4 not bear repeating** (of words) to be too bad to say again **5 repeat oneself** to say or be the same thing again and again: *History seems to be repeating itself.* — see also REPE-TITION, REPETITIOUS

repeat ² *n* **1** a performance shown or broadcast a second time: *I wish we could see more new programmes on television, not repeats all the time.* **2** (in music) a sign (:||) showing that a passage is to be played again

re-peated /rɪˈpiːtɪd/ *adj* [A] done again and again: *repeated failure* — *~ly adv*: *He repeatedly fails to pass the exam.* | *I've told you repeatedly* (=very often) *not to do that.*

re-peat-er /rɪˈpiːtə/ *n* a repeating gun, watch, or clock

re-peat-ing /rɪˈpiːtɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** (of a gun) able to be fired several times without reloading **2** (of a watch or clock, esp. in former times) striking the latest hour and quarter-hours when a spring is pressed

re-pel /rɪˈpel/ *v* **-ll-** [T] **1** to drive away (as if) by force: *The crew repelled the attack.* | *a fabric that repels moisture* **2** to cause strong feelings of dislike in: *She was repelled by the dirty room.*

re-pel-lent ¹ /rɪˈpelənt/ *adj* causing strong dislike; nasty: *a plate of repellent cold potatoes* | *The sight of blood is repellent to some people.*

repellent ² , **-lant** *n* [C;U] (a) substance that drives something, esp. insects, away: *a mosquito repellent*

re-pent /rɪˈpent/ *v* [I (of); T] *fml* to be sorry for and wish one had not done (something bad): *He repented his wickedness.* | *I have nothing to repent of.* [+v-ing] *He repented having shot the bird.*

re-pen-tant /rɪˈpentənt/ *adj* sorry for wrongdoing: *If you are truly repentant you will be forgiven.* — opposite **unrepentant** — *~ly adv* — **-tance** *n* [U]

re-per-cus-sion /ˌrɪːpəˈkʌʃən||-pər-/ *n* [often pl.] a far-reaching effect of some action or event: *The president's death had unexpected repercussions all over the world.*

rep-er-toire /ˈrepətwaːr||-ər-/ *n* the collection of plays, pieces of music, etc., that a performer or theatre company can perform: (fig.) *He has a large repertoire of funny stories.*

rep-er-to-ry /ˈrepətəri||ˈrepərtɔːri/ also **rep infml** — *n* [U] the practice of performing several plays, with the same actors and in the same theatres, one after the other on different days: *a job in repertory* | *a repertory theatre/company*

rep-e-ti-tion /ˌrepɪˈtɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] the act of repeating, or something repeated: *This accident is a repetition of one that happened here three weeks ago.*

rep-e-ti-tious /ˌrepɪˈtɪʃəs/ also **re-pet-i-tive** /rɪˈpetɪtɪv/ — *adj derog* containing parts that are said or done too many times: *a repetitious speech* | *a repetitive job* — *~ness n* [U]

repetitive strain in-ju-ry /ˌrɪːpɪtɪv ˈsɪrɪn ɪnˈdʒʊəri/ also **RSI** — *n* [U] *med* a condition caused by doing certain types of work in an uncomfortable position, leading to pain in the arms, legs, or back

re-phrase /rɪˈfreɪz/ *v* [T] to express (something) in different words, esp. so as to make the meaning clearer or less offensive: *Let me rephrase that.*

re-pine /rɪˈpaɪn/ *v* [I (against, at)] *fml or lit* to feel or express sadness or dissatisfaction

re-place /rɪˈpleɪs/ *v* [T] **1** to take the place of: *George has replaced Edward as captain of the team.* **2** [(with, by)] to change (one person or thing) for another, often better, newer, etc.: *You'll have to replace those tyres; they're badly worn.* | *We've replaced the old adding machine with/by a computer.* **3 fml** to put (something) back in the right place: *He replaced the book on the shelf.* — *~able adj*

▷ **USAGE** Compare the patterns in these sentences: *We replaced apples with oranges.* (=we put oranges in the place of apples) | *We substituted apples for oranges.* (=we put apples in the place of oranges)◁

re-place-ment /rɪˈpleɪsmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of replacing, esp. with something better, newer, etc.: *These worn tyres are badly in need of replacement.* **2** [C (for)] someone or something that replaces: *We need a replacement for the secretary who left.*

re-play ¹ /ˌrɪːˈpleɪ/ *v* **1** [I; T] to play (a match) again: *The game ended in a draw, so they'll replay it on Wednesday.* **2** [T] **a** to play (something that has been recorded on a machine); **PLAY back b** to play (a recording, piece of music, etc.) again

re-play ² /ˌrɪːpleɪ/ *n* **1** a match played again **2** a recording; **PLAYBACK**: *They showed an action replay of the goal.* | *I wish they'd show us an instant replay (AmE) of that fumble.*

re-plen-ish /rɪˈplenɪʃ/ *v* [T (with)] *fml* to fill up again; put new supplies into: *We need to replenish the food cupboard/our stocks of coal.* | *Let me replenish your glass.* — *~ment n* [U]

re-plete /rɪˈpliːt/ *adj* [F (with)] *fml* fully provided or filled, esp. with food: *He sat back replete at the end of the meal.* | *a book replete with maps and diagrams*

rep-li-ca /ˈreplɪkə/ *n* [(of)] a close copy, esp. of a painting or other work of art: *They built a replica of a Second World War plane.*

rep-li-cate /ˈreplɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *tech* to do or make again, esp. so as to get the same result or make an exact copy: *Can the experiment be replicated?* | *These tissue cells replicate themselves.* — **-cation** /ˌreplɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]: *The material inside our genes reproduces itself by replication.*

re-ply ¹ /rɪˈplaɪ/ *v* [I (to); T] to answer; say or do as an answer: *I asked him where he was going, but he didn't reply.* | *Have you replied to him/to his letter?* | *What did she reply?* [+ (that)] *She replied that she couldn't come.* | *"Of course not," she replied.* — see **ANSWER (USAGE)**

reply ² *n* [(to)] something said, written or done as a way of replying: *I asked him, but he gave no reply.* | *What did you say in reply to his suggestion?* | *Her criticisms brought an immediate reply from a government spokesman.*

reply-paid /ˌrɪːˈpaɪ/ *adj* (of a TELEGRAM, postcard, etc.) with the cost of the answer paid by the sender

re-po man /ˈrɪːpəʊ ,mæn/ *n* *AmE infml* a person whose job is to take away (REPOSSESS) property, esp. cars, which the owners are unable to finish paying for

re-port ¹ /rɪˈpɔːt||-ɔːrt/ *n* **1** [C (of, on)] an account or description of events, experiences, business records, etc., which is prepared in order to provide people with information: *Did you read the newspaper reports of the accident?* | *the company's annual report* | *a weather report* | *an interim report on the progress of the arms control talks* **2** [C;U] (a piece of) talk that spreads without official support; **RUMOUR**: *According to report he's not coming back.* **3** [C] *BrE* || **report card** /ˌrɪːˈpɔːt kɑːd/ *AmE* — a written statement by teachers about a child's work at school, sent to his or her parents **4** [C] *fml* the noise of an explosion or shot: *a loud report* **5** *The report of my death was an exaggeration* quote a phrase from a letter written by Mark Twain

report ² *v* **1** [I (on); T (to)] to provide information (about) or give an account (of); make (something) known: *The committee of inquiry will not report until next year.* | *Any case of stealing should be reported immediately to the proper authorities.* | *They came back after a week to report (on) progress.* (=to say what had been done up to then) | *He reported sick.* (=said he could not work because he was sick) [+v-ing/that] *They reported having seen him in Brighton/that they had seen him in Brighton.* [+obj+to-v; pass.] *He is reported to have been seen in Brighton.*

[+obj+adj] *The ship was reported lost with all hands.* **2** [I (on)T] (of a reporter) to write or give an account of (a piece of news): *She reported the president's speech for the newspaper.* | *He cabled to say he had nothing to report, but hoped to get more information later.* | *Here is our Far East correspondent reporting from Japan on the earthquake.* **3** [T (for, to)] to make a complaint about: *He reported the boy (to the head teacher) (for smoking on the school premises).* **4** [I (for, to)] to go or be present: *While she's out on bail she has to report to the police every day.* | *They report for work at 8.0 a.m.* | *What time do you have to report at the airport?*

report (sthg. ↔) **back** *phr v* [I;T (to)] to bring or send back an account (of): *Go and find out what's happened and report back (to me) quickly!* [+that] *They reported back that enemy forces were moving towards the border.*

re-port-age /rɪ'pɔ:tɪdʒ, ˌrɛpɔ:'tɑ:ʒ/ -'pɔ:r-, ˌrɛpər'tɑ:ʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the act of reporting news **2** the style in which this is usually done **3** writing, photographs, or film in this style, intended to give an account of an event

re-port-ed-ly /rɪ'pɔ:tɪdli/ -ɔ:r-/ *adv* according to what is said: *He is reportedly not intending to return to this country.*

reported speech /-ˌrɪˈpɔ:tɪd/ *n* [U] INDIRECT SPEECH

re-port-er /rɪ'pɔ:tə/ -ɔ:r-/ *n* a person who finds out and writes about news events for a newspaper, or for radio or television —compare JOURNALIST; see also COURT REPORTER

re-pose¹ /rɪ'pəʊz/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** (a state of) calm or comfortable rest; peace **2** calmness of manner; COMPOSURE —*~ful adj*

repose² *v fml or pomp* **1** [I+adv/prep, esp. on] a to lie or be placed (on) **b** to lie dead: *His body reposed in state in the cathedral.* **2** [T+obj+adv/prep, esp. on] to place (an object or part of the body) on

repose sthg. **in** sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *fml* to place (trust, hopes, etc.) **in**: *We do not repose much confidence in his judgment.*

re-pos-i-to-ry /rɪ'pɔ:zɪtəri/ rɪ'pɔ:zɪtɔ:ri/ *n* a place where things are stored or found in large quantity: *a furniture repository* | (fig.) *He's a repository of (=has lots of) all sorts of out-of-the-way knowledge.* | *The Black Hills are a rich repository of minerals.*

re-pos-sess /ˌrɪ:ɪpə'zes/ *v* [T] to regain possession of (property), esp. when necessary payments have not been made: *The rental company are threatening to repossess the television.* —see also REPO MAN, MORTGAGE REPOSSESSION —*~ion* /'zɛfən/ *n* [U] : *The landlord has applied for a repossession order.*

rep-re-hend /ˌrɛprɪ'hend/ *v* [T] *fml* rare to express disapproval of: *His conduct deserves to be reprehended.*

rep-re-hen-si-ble /ˌrɛprɪ'hensɪbəl/ *adj fml* (of a person or their behaviour) deserving to be blamed; extremely bad: *a reprehensible action* | *His conduct was reprehensible.* —*bly adv*

rep-re-sent /ˌrɛprɪ'zent/ *v* **1** [T] **a** to act or speak officially for (another person or group of people): *She represented her fellow-workers at the union meeting.* | *He was represented in court by John Stevens, the famous criminal lawyer.* **b** to be the member of Parliament or Congress for (a place): *Does Mr Walker still represent Worcester?* | *She represents the 8th congressional district of Illinois.* **2** [T] to be a picture or STATUE of; DEPICT: *This painting represents the death of Nelson/represents Nelson dying at Trafalgar.* | *a tall stone figure representing the god of war* **3** [T] to be a sign of; SYMBOLIZE: *The red lines on the map represent railways.* **4** [L+n; not in progressive forms] to be; have the character of; CONSTITUTE: *This essay represents a considerable improvement on your recent work.* **5** [T usu. pass.] (of a member of a group) to be present as an example of (that group): *All the different races of the country were represented (=were present) at the parade.* **6** [T+obj+as/to-v] to describe or declare, perhaps falsely: *He represented himself as/to be a friend of the workers, but now we know the truth.*

represent sthg. **to** sbdy. *phr v* [T] *fml* to express or point out to, often angrily or complainingly: *You should represent your grievances/complaints to the management.*

re-pre-sent /ˌrɪ:prɪ'zent/ *v* [T] to give or offer again; send in again: *They re-presented the bill for payment.*

rep-re-sen-ta-tion /ˌrɛprɪzən'teɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of representing or state of being represented (REPRESENT

(1)): *"No taxation without representation" means that if people pay taxes they should be represented in a parliament.* | *She appeared in court without representation.* (=without a lawyer) **2** [C (of)] something that REPRESENTS (2,3) something else: *This painting is a representation of a storm at sea.* | *the representation of speech sounds by phonetic symbols* —see also REPRESENTATIONS, PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

rep-re-sen-ta-tion-al /ˌrɛprɪzən'teɪʃənəl/ *adj* (of a style of art, a painting, etc.) showing things as they actually appear in real life —compare ABSTRACT¹ (3)

rep-re-sen-ta-tions /ˌrɛprɪzən'teɪʃənz/ *n* [P (about, to)] *esp. BrE* official complaints made in a formal way: *They made representations to the college authorities about the bad accommodation.*

rep-re-sen-ta-tive¹ /ˌrɛprɪ'zentətɪv/ *adj* **1** [(of)] typical; being an example of what other members of the same group or type are like: *a representative sample* | *Are your opinions representative of those of the other students?* | *If this is representative of the general quality of your work, I'm not very impressed.* —opposite UNREPRESENTATIVE **2** (of a system of government) in which the people and their opinions are represented

representative² *n* [(of)] a person who has been chosen to act in place of one or more others: *I couldn't be present myself, but I sent my representative to the meeting.* | *an elected representative of the people* —see also HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Representative *n* a member of the House of Representatives, the lower house of Congress in the United States, usu. called a Congresswoman or Congressman

re-press /rɪ'pres/ *v* [T] to control, hold back, or prevent the natural expression of (a feeling, desire, action, etc.): *a repressed child* | *repressed desires* | *I could hardly repress my laughter.* —compare SUPPRESS

re-pres-sion /rɪ'prefən/ *n* [C;U] the act of repressing or state of being repressed, esp. a the forcing of feelings or desires of which one is ashamed out of the conscious mind into the unconscious mind, often with strange effects upon one's behaviour: *sexual repression* **b** cruel and severe control: *political repression* —compare SUPPRESSION

re-pres-sive /rɪ'presɪv/ *adj* (of a law, system of government, etc.) hard and cruel: *Under the general's repressive regime, thousands of people were imprisoned without trial.* —*~ly adv* —*~ness n* [U]

re-prieve¹ /rɪ'pri:v/ *v* [T often pass.] to give a reprieve to: *The prisoner was reprieved.* | (fig.) *The government was going to discontinue the youth training programme, but it's been reprieved.*

reprieve² *n* an official order delaying or stopping the punishment of a prisoner who was to die: *The Home Secretary granted him a reprieve the day before he was due to be hanged.* | *a last-minute reprieve*

rep-ri-mand /ˌrɛprɪ'ma:nd/ -mænd/ *v* [T] to express strong official disapproval of: *The military court ordered him to be reprimanded for failing to do his duty.* —**reprimand** *n*: *She received a severe reprimand.*

re-print¹ /ˌrɪ:'prɪnt/ *v* [I;T] to print (a book) or be printed again when supplies have run out: *The book is reprinting — you'll be able to buy one soon.* | *The new dictionary has sold so well that it's had to be reprinted.*

re-print² /ˌrɪ:'prɪnt/ *n* a reprinted book

re-pri-sal /rɪ'praɪzəl/ also **reprisals** *pl.* — *n* [C;U] (an act of) punishing others for harm done to oneself, esp. of a political or military kind: *Our government has threatened theirs with reprisals/threatened to carry out/take reprisals if they continue to infringe our fishing limits.* | *They bombed the enemy village in reprisal for/as a reprisal for the killing of some of their own troops.* | *a reprisal raid*

re-prise /rɪ'prɪz/ *n* a repeating of all or part of a piece of music

re-proach¹ /rɪ'prəʊtʃ/ *n* **1** [U] blame; the expression of disapproval: *She gave me a look of reproach.* | *His behaviour was above/beyond reproach.* (=perfect) **2** [C] *fml* a word or words of blame: *When he came home drunk his wife greeted him with loud reproaches.* **3** [S+to] *fml* something that deserves blame or brings shame; DISGRACE: *These derelict houses are a reproach to the city.* —*~ful adj*: *a reproachful glance* —*~fully adv*

reproach² *v* [T (for, with)] to blame (someone), usu. not angrily but sadly and in a way that shows disappointment: *It wasn't your fault — you have nothing to reproach yourself with.* (=to blame yourself for)

rep-ro-bate /'reprəbeɪt/ *n fml or humor* a person of bad character: *He's an old reprobate who spends all his money on beer.*

re-pro-cess /rɪz'prəʊses||-'praɪ-/ *v* [T] to treat (something that has been used) so that it can be used again: *the reprocessing of nuclear fuel*

re-pro-duce /rɪz'prə'djuːs||-'duːs/ *v* [I;T] **1** to produce the young of (oneself or one's own kind): *Most fish reproduce (themselves) by laying eggs.* **2** to produce a copy (of); (cause to) be seen, heard, or done again: *This photograph of the painting reproduces the colours of the original extremely well.* | *They were unable to reproduce the results of the first experiment when they repeated it.* —**ducer** *n* —**ducible** *adj*

re-pro-duc-tion /rɪz'prə'dʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act or process of producing young: *human reproduction* | *a biology lesson on the reproduction of the rabbit* **2** [U] the process of producing a copy: *The quality of reproduction isn't very good on this recording.* **3** [C (of)] a copy, esp. of a work of art, less exact than a REPLICA: *a cheap reproduction of a famous painting*

re-pro-duc-tive /rɪz'prə'dʌktɪv-/ *adj* **1** concerned with producing young: *the female reproductive system* **2** concerned with copying: *The reproductive quality of audio tapes has improved enormously.*

re-proof /rɪ'pruːf/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an expression of) blame or disapproval: *You can scarcely expect to escape reproof for such irresponsible behaviour.*

re-prove /rɪ'pruːv/ *v* [T (for)] *fml* to talk to angrily or express disapproval of: *She reproved him for telling lies.*

re-prov-ing /rɪ'pruːvɪŋ/ *adj fml* expressing reproof: *a reproving glance* — *~ly adv*

rep-tile /'reptail||'reptl/ *n* an animal whose blood changes temperature according to the temperature around it and that usu. lays eggs: *Snakes, lizards, and crocodiles are reptiles.*

rep-til-i-an¹ /rep'tɪliən/ *adj* **1** [no comp.] of, like, or being a reptile **2** *derog* (of a person) very unpleasant, dishonest, or untrustworthy; REPULSIVE

reptilian² *n tech* a reptile

re-pub-lic /rɪ'pʌblɪk/ *n* a nation, usu. governed by elected representatives, whose head of state is not a king or queen but a president: *Ireland is a republic.* | *The People's Republic of China* —compare MONARCHY (2); see also BANANA REPUBLIC, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

re-pub-li-can¹ /rɪ'pʌblɪkən/ *adj* belonging to or supporting a republic: *a republican system of government*

republican² *n* a person who disapproves of kings and queens, and believes in government by elected representatives only

Republican¹ *adj* **1** of or supporting the Republican Party, one of the two largest political parties of the US —compare DEMOCRATIC **2** of or supporting SINN FEIN

Republican² *n* **1** a member or supporter of the Republican Party of the US —compare DEMOCRAT **2** a member or supporter of SINN FEIN

Republican Guard /ˌrɪˌpʌˌblɪkən ɡɑːd/ [the] (in Iraq) a special group of soldiers who were involved in the GULF WAR in 1990, as part of Saddam Hussein's army

re-pub-li-can-is-m /rɪ'pʌblɪkənɪzəm/ *n* [U] the beliefs or practices of republicans

Republicanism *n* [U] the beliefs or practices of the Republican Party of the US

Republican Par-ty /ˌrɪˌpʌˌblɪkən ˈpɑːtɪ/ [the] one of the two main political parties in the US, also known as the Republicans. It was established in 1854 to oppose SLAVERY, and won its first presidential election with Abraham Lincoln in 1860. It is sometimes called the Grand Old Party or GOP, and is thought of as the party of big business and CONSERVATIVE politics but actually represents a wide range of views. —see also DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Republic of Ire-land /ˌrɪˌpʌˌblɪk ˈaɪəˌlənd/ also Ireland, Irish Republic, Eire, Southern Ireland — *n* [the] the country that forms the larger part of the island of Ireland; capital Dublin; population 3,515,000 (1989). The main industries are

farming and tourism, and the main religion is Roman Catholicism. English and Gaelic are the official languages. The national SYMBOL of the Republic of Ireland is the SHAMROCK and the PATRON SAINT is Saint Patrick. —see also NORTHERN IRELAND and see colour map on page 818

re-pu-di-ate /rɪ'pjʊːdiət/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to state that (something) is untrue or unjust: *I repudiate emphatically any suggestion that I may have acted dishonourably.* **2** to refuse to accept; REJECT: *He repudiated all offers of friendship.* **3** *old-fash* to refuse to meet or recognize; state that one has no connection with (someone); DISOWN: *He repudiated his daughter when she married without his consent.* **4** *tech* to refuse to pay (a debt) —**ation** /rɪ'pjʊːdi'eɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-pug-nance /rɪ'pʌɡnəns/ *n* [S;U (for)] *fml* a feeling of strong dislike, often mixed with moral disapproval: *She turned away from the disgusting sight in|with repugnance.*

re-pug-nant /rɪ'pʌɡnənt/ *adj fml* very unpleasant and offensive; causing repugnance: *I find his opinions repugnant.*

re-pulse¹ /rɪ'pʌls/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to refuse in a cold, unfriendly, or impolite way; push away (a friendly person, or an offer of friendship) **2** to drive back (an enemy attack)

repulse² *n* **1** the military defeat of an attack **2** a rude refusal of friendship; REBUFF

re-pul-sion /rɪ'pʌlʃən/ *n* **1** [S;U] very strong dislike; REPUGNANCE: *For a lot of people, the sight of blood produces a feeling of repulsion.* **2** [U] *tech* (in science) the force by which one object drives another away from it —opposite attraction

re-pul-sive /rɪ'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* **1** very unpleasant; causing repulsion: *repulsive skin diseases* | *What a repulsive man!* **2** [no comp.] *tech* (in science) having REPULSION (2): *repulsive forces* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

rep-u-ta-ble /'repjʊtəbəl/ *adj* having a good reputation, esp. for being honest and dependable: *a reputable firm of builders* —opposite disreputable —*bly adv*

rep-u-ta-tion /'repjʊ'teɪʃən/ also *rep AmE infml* — *n* [C;U (for)] (an) opinion held about someone or something, esp. by people in general; the degree to which one is trusted or admired: *This restaurant has a good|bad reputation.* | *It has gained|acquired a reputation for good|bad food.* | *He has the reputation of being a tough manager.* | *If people find out what you're doing it will ruin your reputation.* | *It can be hard to live up to one's reputation.* (=to behave in the way people have come to expect) —compare CHARACTER (4)

re-pute /rɪ'pjʊːt/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* **1** reputation: *a man of good|evil repute* | *He is held in high repute.* (=people have a good opinion of him) **2** good reputation: *a hotel of (some) repute* **3** *house of ill repute* *old fash or humor* a BROTHEL

re-put-ed /rɪ'pjʊːtɪd/ *adj* generally supposed or considered (to be), but with some doubt: *the reputed father of her baby* [F+to-v] *She is reputed to be extremely wealthy.*

re-put-ed-ly /rɪ'pjʊːtɪdli/ *adv* according to what people say: *Reputedly, she is very rich.*

re-quest¹ /rɪ'kwɛst/ *n* **1** [C (for)] an act of asking for something, esp. politely: *They have made an urgent request for international aid.* | *The President's request for an increase in the defense budget has been turned down by Congress.* [+that] *Despite repeated requests that they should make less noise, they persisted in playing their music at full volume.* **2** [U] the fact of being asked for, esp. politely: *The name of the murder victim was not published in the newspapers, at the request of the judge.* (=because the judge requested that it should not be PUBLISHED) | *Full details will be sent on request.* (=if you ask for them) **3** [C] something that has been asked for: *Do they play requests on this radio show?* (=records that have been asked for by listeners) | *I'm going to the coffee shop—any requests?* (=Does anyone want anything from there?)

request² *v* [T (of)] *rather fml* to ask (for), esp. politely; make a request (for): *Your presence is requested at the meeting.* | *This record has been requested by Mrs Simpson of Potters Bar.* (=she has asked for it to be played on the radio) [+obj+to-v] *All members of the club are requested to attend the annual meeting.* [+that] *The teaching staff requested (of the head teacher) that he should reconsider his decision.*

▷ **USAGE** Compare **ask (for)**, **request**, and **demand**. **Ask** is the usual word for speaking or writing to someone in order to get something done: *I asked one of my friends to help me*, and **ask for** the expression for trying to get something: *I asked for help*. **Request** is more formal and stronger; if you **request** something you usually have the right to get what you want: *The letter requested us to leave the house within six weeks*. | *I requested assistance*. **Demand** is even stronger; if you **demand** something, you feel strongly that you have the right to get it, and will not take "no" for an answer. *The dissatisfied customer demanded to see the manager of the store*. | *I demand my rights*. ◁

request stop /-ˈ- / *BrE* || **flag stop** *AmE*— *n* a place where buses stop only if they are asked to do so, esp. by someone signalling with their hand

requi-em /ˈrekwiəm, ˈrekwiem/ also **requiem** *mass* /, ... ˈ- /— *n* (a piece of music written for) a Christian religious ceremony (*MASS*) for a dead person, at which people pray for his or her soul; these are performed on *ALL SOULS DAY* and at *FUNERALS*, or on request

re-quire /rɪˈkwaɪə/ *v* [*T not in progressive forms*] **1** *rather fml* to need or make necessary: *This suggestion will require careful thought*. | *Is there anything further you require, sir?* [+*v-ing*] *To carry out this plan would require increasing our staff by 50%*. [+*that*] *The urgency of the situation requires that we (should) make an immediate decision*. **2** [(of)] *fml* to demand by right; give an order (for or to), with the expectation that it will be obeyed: *Silence is required of all examination candidates*. [+*obj+to-v*] *All passengers are required to show their tickets*. [+*that*] *The regulations require that all students shall attend at least 90 per cent of the lectures*. | *This book is required reading for our course*. (=you must read it)

re-quire-ment /rɪˈkwaɪəmənt/ -ˈkwaɪər- / *n* something that is needed or that is demanded as necessary: *The refugees' main requirements are food and shelter*. | *Can this computer handle the requirements of the wages department?* | *Candidates who fail to meet (=satisfy) these requirements will not be admitted to the University*.

requi-site ¹ /ˈrekwiːzɪt/ *adj* [(for)] *fml* needed for a purpose; necessary: *He hasn't got the requisite qualifications for this job*.

requisite ² *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml* something needed for or used in connection with the stated thing: *toilet requisites* (=soap, SHAMPOO, COLOGNE, etc.)

requi-si-tion ¹ /ˈrekwiːzɪʃən/ *n* [*C;U (for)*] an official demand or request, esp. one made by a military body: *The school authorities have made a requisition for more computing equipment*. | *to fill in a requisition form*

requisition ² *v* [*T*] to make a requisition for: *The army requisitioned all our stores of petrol*.

re-quit-al /rɪˈkwaɪt/ *n* [*U*] *fml* **1** repayment for something done or given: *I have made full requital*. **2** something given or done in return for something else

re-quite /rɪˈkwaɪt/ *v* [*T (with)*] *fml* to pay back (something): *Our kindness and trust was requited only with dishonesty on their part*. —see also *UNREQUITED*

rere-dos /ˈrɪədɒs/ -ˈrɪədɔːs, ˈreərɔːdɔːs/ *n* a decorative wall or large wall-like work of art behind an *ALTAR* in a church

re-route /ˈrɪːruːt/ -ˈruːt, -ˈraʊt/ *v* [*T*] to send (*usu.* vehicles) another way: *Traffic is being rerouted*.

re-run ¹ /ˈrɪːrʌn/ *v* -*ran* /ˈræn/, -*run* *present participle* -*running* [*T*] **1** to show (a film or recorded broadcast) again: *They rerun so many old films on television*. **2** to arrange for (a race or competition) to be held again: *One of the competitors was found to have cheated, so the race had to be rerun*.

re-run ² /ˈrɪːrʌn/ *n* **1** a film or recorded broadcast that is rerun **2** something that happens again in the same way as before: *These measures were taken in order to avert a rerun of the Three Mile Island disaster*.

re-sale shop /ˈrɪːseɪl ˌʃɒp/ -ˌʃɑːp/ *n* *AmE* a shop that sells used goods, *usu.* to raise money for a *CHARITY*

re-sched-ule /ˈrɪːʃedʒʊl/ -ˈskedʒʊl, -dʒəl/ *v* [*T*] *tech* to arrange for (money which one has been lent) to be paid back at a later time than was originally agreed

re-scind /rɪˈsɪnd/ *v* [*T*] *law* to put an end to (a law, decision, or agreement); *ANNUL* or *REPEAL*

res-cue ¹ /ˈreskjʊ/ *v* [*T (from)*] to save or set free from harm, danger, or loss: *He rescued the man from drowning|the cat from the high tree|his stamp collection from the burning house*. | *She clung to the floating wreckage for hours before she was rescued*. | *a final attempt to rescue the company from bankruptcy* —*cuer* *n*

rescue ² *n* an act of rescuing: *a daring rescue carried out at sea* | *A rescue team is trying to reach the trapped miners*. | *We were about to close down the business, but the bank came to our rescue* (=saved us) *with a huge loan*. | *a rescue attempt*

re-search ¹ /rɪˈsɜːtʃ, ˈrɪːsɜːtʃ/ -ˌɜːr- / also **researches** *pl.*— *n* [*U (in, into, on)*] serious and detailed study of a subject, that is aimed at learning new facts, scientific laws, testing ideas, etc.: *a very interesting piece of research* | *They are carrying out|doing some research into|on the effects of brain damage*. | *Will they publish the results of their research|researches?* | *research students|workers* | *a research laboratory* —see also *MARKET RESEARCH*, *R AND D*

re-search ² /rɪˈsɜːtʃ/ -ˌɜːr- / *v* **1** [*I (in, into, on)*] to do research: *I'm researching in medieval history*. | *They're researching on|into the effects of cigarette smoking*. **2** [*T*] to do research on or for: *to research a subject* | *This book has been very well researched*. —*~er* *n*

research and de-vel-op-ment /ˌrɪːsɜːtʃ ˌdɛvələpmənt/ *n* [*U*] see *R AND D*

re-sem-blance /rɪˈzembəlns/ *n* [*C;U (between, to)*] (a) similarity, esp. in appearance; likeness: *There's a strong resemblance between Susan and Robert*. | *He didn't bear much resemblance to the man whose photo I'd seen*. | *a certain resemblance between the styles of the two writers*

re-sem-ble /rɪˈzembəl/ *v* [*T (in)*] *not in progressive forms*; *no pass.* to look like or be like: *She resembles her sister in appearance but not in character*.

re-sent /rɪˈzent/ *v* [*T*] to feel anger and dislike about (something that hurts, offends, or annoys one): *I strongly|bitterly resent her attempts to interfere in my work*. [+*v-ing*] *I resent having to get his permission for everything I do*. —*~ful* *adj*: *She gave him a resentful look*. —*~fully* *adv* —*~fulness* *n* [*U*]

re-sent-ment /rɪˈzentmənt/ *n* [*U (at, against, towards)*] the feeling of resenting something; feeling that one has been badly treated: *There is widespread resentment against the management over the way they have ignored all our demands*.

res-er-va-tion /ˌrezəˈveɪʃən/ -zər- / *n* **1** [*C;U*] (a) feeling of doubt or uncertainty, esp. when one's agreement with something is in some way limited: *Some members of the committee expressed reservations about these proposals*. | *We accept their offer|condemn their action without reservation*. (=completely) | *I have some reservations about the truth of these claims*. (=I find it hard to believe them) **2** [*C often pl*] an arrangement made in advance to have something, such as a place in a hotel, restaurant, or on a plane; *BOOKING*: *Have you made the reservations for our holiday yet?* | *a hotel reservation* | *They are only seating people with reservations*. **3** [*C*] (in the US) a piece of land set apart for Native Americans to live on; these have been a problem since they were established. Many Native Americans died because of the change of lifestyle, and there are still arguments about ownership of the land. —see also *NATIVE AMERICAN* **4** [*C*] esp. *AmE* an area of land set apart for animals to live unharmed, without being hunted: *a game|wildlife reservation* —see also *CENTRAL RESERVATION*

re-serve ¹ /rɪˈzɜːv/ -ˌɜːrv/ *v* [*T*] **1** [(for)] to set apart, set aside, or keep for a special purpose: *These seats are reserved for old and sick people*. | *He reserved his rudest comments for the boss*. **2** to make a *RESERVATION* (2): *Have you reserved our seats on the plane?*

reserve ² *n* **1** [*C (of);U*] also **reserves** *pl.*— a quantity of something kept for future use; store: *We must keep back a reserve|some reserves of food*. | *We always keep some money in reserve*. (=ready for use if needed) **2** [*C*] a piece of land set aside for wild animals, plants, etc.: *a nature|wildlife reserve* **3** [*C*] a player who will play in a team game if any other member of the team is hurt or cannot play **4** [*U*] the quality of being *RESERVED* (1): *behaving with typical British reserve* **5** [*the*] also **reserves** *pl.*— (often *cap.*) a military force that a country keeps, in addition to its regular forces, for use if needed: *to call up the reserve(s)* —see also *RESERVIST* **6** [*C*] also **reserve**

price /ˌpɪː ˈpɪː/ **upset price** *AmE*— a price limit below which something is not to be sold, esp. in an AUCTION: *They put a reserve of £30,000 on the house.* **7 without reserve** *fml* freely and openly: *She told me all about it without reserve.*

re-served /rɪˈzɜːvd/ *adj* **1** (typical of people) who do not like to talk about themselves or to show their feelings; *SHY: Bob is very reserved — you never know what he's thinking.* **2** kept for the future or special use: *reserved seats/tables* — see also UNRESERVED — **~ly** *adv*

Reserve Of-fi-cer Train-ing Corps /ˌrɪː ˈɔː ˈtɪː ˈnɪː/ [*the*] *AmE* see ROTC

re-serv-ist /rɪˈzɜːvɪst/ *n* a soldier who can be called at any time of difficulty to serve in a country's army

res-er-voir /ˈrezəvwaːr/ *n* **1** a place where liquid is stored, esp. an artificial lake to provide water for an area **2** [+of] also **reservoirs** *pl.* — a large supply, esp. one that has not yet been used: *We must make use of our untapped reservoirs of talent.* (=useful and clever people)

re-set¹ /ˌrɪː ˈset/ *v* **-set, present participle -setting** [T] **1** to change so as to show a different number, time, etc.: *She reset her watch when her flight from London arrived in New York.* | *Reset the dial at zero.* **2** to put (a broken bone) back in place for a second time **3** to make up TYPE¹ (2) again for (something to be printed): *The book had to be reset because there were so many mistakes in the first printing.* **4** to put (a jewel) into a new arrangement of jewellery **5** to BOOT³ (a small computer)

reset² /ˈrɪːset/ *adj* causing to reset (1 and 5): *Next time that happens just push the reset button.*

re-set-tle /rɪˈsetl/ *v* [I;T] to (help to) go to live in a new country or area: *Many Ugandan Asian families resettled in Canada in the 1970s.* | *tribespeople who were forcibly resettled by the government* — **~ment** *n* [U]: *a land resettlement programme*

re-shuf-ble¹ /rɪˈʃʌfəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to SHUFFLE (playing cards) again **2** [T] to carry out a reshuffle of: *The prime minister reshuffled her cabinet.*

reshuffle² *n* a process of changing around the positions of the people who work in an organization, esp. in government: *a cabinet reshuffle*

re-side /rɪˈzaɪd/ *v* [I+adv/prep] *fml* to have one's home: *They reside abroad.* | *The defendant resides at 8, New Road.* — see LIVE (USAGE)

reside in sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T no pass.] *fml* (of a power, right, etc.) to belong to: *The power to change the law resides in Parliament.*

res-i-dence /ˈrezɪdəns/ *n fml* **1** [C] the place where one lives; a house, esp. a large important one: *the ambassador's official residence* | *desirable residence for sale* (advertisement) | (*humor*) *How nice of you to visit me at my humble residence!* **2** [U] the state of residing: *He took up residence* (=went to live) *in Jamaica.* **3** in **residence** actually living in a place, esp. a (of an official) in the official house b (of a student) at the university: *The students are not in residence during the holidays.* — see also HALL OF RESIDENCE, IN-RESIDENCE

res-i-dent¹ /ˈrezɪdənt/ *adj* [(in)] living (in a place): *The ex-chairman, now resident in Spain, is accused of embezzling company funds.* | *a resident doctor* (=living in the hospital) | (*humor*) *He's our resident expert on horse racing.*

resident² *n* a person who lives in a place, such as a house, hotel or particular area, all the time or just while working, studying, or visiting: *This hotel serves meals to residents only.* (=only to people who sleep there)

res-i-den-tial /ˌrezɪˈdenʃəl/ *adj* **1** (of part of a town) consisting of private houses, without offices or factories: *a quiet residential street/area in Leeds* **2** for which one must live or stay in a place for a certain period: *It's a residential course, so bring your pyjamas.* | *You can't vote in this country unless you've got residential qualifications.*

residential care /ˌrɪː ˈkɛː ˈtɪː ˈnɪː/ *n* [U] a system of care for old or ill people who are unable to look after themselves at home, and need nursing or other professional care which their families cannot provide

residential treat-ment fa-cil-i-ty /ˌrɪː ˈtɪː ˈnɪː ˈtɪː ˈnɪː/ *n AmE tech or euph* for MENTAL HOSPITAL

resident's as-so-ci-a-tion /ˈrɪː ˈsɔː ˈtɪː ˈnɪː/ *n* [+sing./pl.v] an association of people who all live in the same building or

local area, formed to deal with matters which concern them

re-sid-u-al /rɪˈzɪdʒuəl/ *adj fml* left over; remaining: *There was still some residual unrest after the rebellion had been crushed.* | *one's residual income, after all taxes have been paid*

residual cur-rent de-vice /ˌrɪː ˈkɛː ˈtɪː ˈnɪː/ also **circuit breaker**— *n* a safety DEVICE used with certain electrical APPLIANCES such as LAWNMOWERS, which cuts off the supply of electricity in the event of an accident such as the wires being cut, to prevent electrocution (ELECTROCUTE)

res-i-due /ˈrezɪdʒuː/ *n* [(of) usu. sing.] *tech* what is left, esp. a (in law) after a dead person's debts and gifts have been settled: *The residue of the estate goes to his daughter.* b (in science) after chemical treatment: *a sticky residue in the bottom of the test tube*

re-sign /rɪˈzaɪn/ *v* [I (from); T] **1** to give up (a job or position): *If Paul resigns, who will get the job?* | *She resigned from the committee/resigned as a member of the committee.* | *He resigned his post because he had been offered a better job.* —compare RETIRE **2** **resign oneself** to to cause or allow (oneself) to accept (something unpleasant which cannot be avoided) calmly or patiently: *He seems quite resigned to his fate.* | *You must resign yourselves to waiting a bit longer.* —see also RESIGNED

res-ig-na-tion /ˌrezɪɡˈneɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act or written statement of) resigning: *You have the choice between resignation and dismissal.* | *He handed/sent in his resignation.* **2** [U] the state of being resigned: *He accepted his fate with resignation.*

re-signed /rɪˈzaɪnd/ *adj* typical of a person who has resigned himself/herself to something unpleasant: *"I didn't really want it anyway," he said with a resigned sigh.* — **~ly** /rɪˈzaɪndli/ *adv*: *"I suppose it was bound to happen," she said resignedly.*

re-sil-i-ent /rɪˈzɪliənt/ *adj* **1** (of a substance) able to spring back to the former shape or position when pressure is removed: *Rubber is more resilient than wood.* **2** **apprec** able to return quickly to usual health or good spirits after going through difficulty, disease, change, etc.: *It's been a terrible shock, but she's very resilient and will get over it soon.* — **~ly** *adv* — **-ence, -ency** *n* [U]: *Rubber has more resilience than wood.*

res-in /ˈrezɪn/ *n* **1** [U] a thick sticky liquid that comes out of certain trees such as the FIR, and later becomes a hard yellow substance. It is used for making paint, in medicine, and as ROSIN. **2** [C] any of various artificial plastic substances, produced chemically and used in industry — **~ous** *adj*

res-in-at-ed /ˈrezɪneɪtɪd/ *adj* mixed with or tasting of RESIN (1): *Resinated wine is drunk in Greece.*

re-sist /rɪˈzɪst/ *v* **1** [I;T] to oppose; fight against (something): *The city resisted the enemy onslaught for two weeks.* | *The government are resisting the nurses' wage demands.* | *He was charged with resisting arrest.* **2** [T] to remain unchanged or unharmed by: *Lack of proper nourishment reduces their power to resist disease.* | *You need a roof that will resist the weather.* **3** [I;T usu. in negatives] to force or allow oneself not to accept: *I can't resist chocolate mints.* (=I like them very much) | *She's such a charming girl; it's hard to resist her.* (=to refuse to give her what she wants) [+v-ing] *I couldn't resist telling him the secret.* (=I had to tell him) — **~er** *n*

re-sist-ance /rɪˈzɪstəns/ *n* **1** [S;U (to)] an act of resisting or the ability to resist: *The defenders put up (a) strong resistance.* | *There has been a lot of resistance* (=opposition) *to this new law.* | *We took the line of least resistance* (=the easiest way) *and paid the money instead of arguing.* | *the baby's resistance to disease* | *The escaped criminal offered no resistance when the police caught up with him.* — see also SALES RESISTANCE **2** [U] the stated force opposed to anything moving: *The aircraft is streamlined to cut down wind resistance.* **3** [U] the power of a substance to RESIST (2) the passing through it of an electric current: *Copper has less resistance than lead.* — compare VOLTAGE **4** [(the) U+sing./pl. v] (often cap.) an organization that fights secretly against an enemy that has defeated and now controls its country, esp. that of France in the Second World War **5** [C] a RESISTOR

re-sis-tant /rɪˈzɪstənt/ *adj* [(to)] (often in comb.) having or showing resistance: *This new type of infection is resistant*

to antibiotics. | a disease-resistant variety of wheat

re-sis-tor /rɪˈzɪstə/ *n* a piece of wire or other material used for increasing electrical RESISTANCE (3)

re-sit /ˌrɪzɪt/ *v* -sat /ˈsæt/, present participle -sitting [T] esp. BrE to take (an examination) again — **re-sit** /ˈrɪzɪt/ *n*

res-o-lute /ˈrezələt/ *adj* *fml*, *apprec* (of a person or their character) firm; determined in purpose: a resolute optimist | Be resolute (in your efforts). —opposite **irresolute** — **~ly** *adv*: They defended the city resolutely.

res-o-lu-tion /ˌrezəˈluːʃən/ *n* 1 [C] a formal decision or statement made by the vote of a group: All those in favour of the resolution should raise their hands. [+to-v|that] The committee have passed/carried/adopted/rejected a resolution to build a new library/a resolution that a new library (should) be built. 2 [C] a firm decision; something one makes up one's mind to do or stop doing: She's always making good resolutions but she never carries them out. [+to-v] I've made a New Year (BrE) || Year's (AmE) resolution (=one made on January 1st for the year ahead) to stop smoking. —compare **RESOLVE**² (1) 3 also **res-o-lute-ness** /ˈrezələtˌnəs/ — [U] *apprec* the quality of being resolute; DETERMINATION: She lacks resolution. 4 [U] the action of resolving (**RESOLVE**¹ (1)) something: The lawyer's advice led to the resolution of this difficult problem. 5 [U+of, into] (in science) the process of breaking up into parts: the resolution of a chemical mixture into simple substances 6 [C;U] (a measure of) the power of a scientific instrument to give a clear picture of things that are very small or close together: a high-resolution microscope/computer screen

re-sol-va-ble /rɪˈzɒlvəbəl/ — ˈzɔːl- / *adj* 1 that can be resolved: This difficulty should be easily resolvable. 2 [F+into] that can be resolved into parts: This mixture is resolvable into two simple substances.

re-solve¹ /rɪˈzɒlv/ — ˈzɔːlv- / *v* 1 [T] to find a satisfactory way of dealing with (a difficulty); settle: to resolve a dispute | There weren't enough beds, but the matter was resolved by George sleeping on the sofa. 2 [I+on; T+to-v|that; obj] to make a determined decision; decide firmly: Once she has resolved on doing it, you won't get her to change her mind. | He resolved to work harder|that he would work harder. 3 [I+adv|prep; T+to-v|that; obj] (of a committee or public body) to make a RESOLUTION: The committee resolved on/against appointing a new secretary. | Parliament has resolved that ... | The Senate resolved, by 70 votes to 30, to accept the President's budget proposals.

resolve (sthg.) **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to separate or become separated into (parts): The problem can be resolved into two areas of misunderstanding. | This mixture will resolve into two separate compounds.

resolve² *n fml* 1 [C] a RESOLUTION (2): [+to-v] He made a firm resolve to give up drinking and smoking. 2 [U] *apprec* RESOLUTION (3): Her encouragement and support strengthened our resolve.

res-o-nance /ˈrezənəns/ *n* 1 [U] the quality of being RESONANT (1): the resonance of his voice 2 [C;U] (a) sound produced or increased in one object by sound waves from another: Playing the piano sets up resonance(s) in those glass ornaments.

res-o-nant /ˈrezənənt/ *adj* 1 (of a sound) deep, loud, clear, and continuing: the resonant note of a bell | a resonant voice 2 producing RESONANCE (2) 3 [F+with] (of a place) filled with the stated sound: The air was resonant with the shouts of children. — **~ly** *adv*

res-o-nate /ˈrezəneɪt/ *v* [I] 1 to produce RESONANCE (2) 2 (of a sound) to be RESONANT (1)

res-o-na-tor /ˈrezəneɪtə/ *n* an apparatus for increasing the RESONANCE (2) of sound, as in a musical instrument

re-sort¹ /rɪˈzɔːt/ — ˈɔːrt/ *n* 1 [C] a place where people regularly go for holidays: Brighton is one of the most popular resorts on the south coast of England. | skiing resorts | a health resort (=place considered good for the health) 2 [U+(to)] *fml* the action of resorting to something: If this can't be settled reasonably, it may be necessary to have resort to force. | He couldn't have passed the exam without resort to cheating. | As a/In the last resort (=if everything else fails) we could borrow more money from the bank. —compare **RECOURSE**

resort² *v*

resort to sthg. *phr v* [T] to make use of; turn to (often

something bad) for help: When polite requests failed he resorted to threats. [+v-ing] She resorted to stealing when she had no more money.

re-sound /rɪˈzaʊnd/ *v* [I] 1 [(with)] (of a place) to be filled with sound; ECHO: The hall resounded with laughter and whistles. 2 [(through, throughout)] (of a musical instrument, a sound, etc.) to be loudly and clearly heard: The (notes of the) hunting horn resounded through the forest. —compare **REVERBERATE**

re-sound-ing /rɪˈzaʊndɪŋ/ *adj* 1 [A] (of a sound) loud and clear; echoing (ECHO²): They all gave three resounding cheers. 2 very great; complete: a resounding victory/defeat/failure — **~ly** *adv*

re-source¹ /rɪˈzɔːs, -ˈsɔːs/ — ˈɔːrs, ˈrɪzɔːrs/ *n* 1 [C *usu. pl.*] any of the possessions or qualities of a person, an organization, or esp. a country: Oil is Kuwait's most important natural resource. | a country rich in mineral resources (=such as metal, coal, oil, etc. in the ground) | The job called for all my resources of energy and patience. | This country is wasting its resources and manpower on building old-fashioned ships. | Resource management is an important business skill. 2 [C] a means of comfort or help; something one turns to when one is in difficulty: Religion is her only resource now. | She has inner resources of courage. 3 [U] also **re-source-ful-ness** /rɪˈzɔːsfəlˌnəs, -ˈsɔːs-ˌˈɔːr-/ — [U] *apprec* cleverness in finding a way to avoid difficulties; practical ability: a man of great resource 4 leave someone to their own resources to leave someone to act as they wish or to do the best they can, esp. in a difficult situation

re-source² /rɪˈzɔːs, -ˈsɔːs/ — ˈɔːrs/ *v* [T] to provide (money or other resources) for: The FTC will resource the new study. | The program failed because it wasn't adequately resourced. —see also **UNDERRESOURCE**

re-source-ful /rɪˈzɔːsfəl, -ˈsɔːs-ˌˈɔːr-/ *adj* *apprec* good at finding ways to deal with difficult situations: It was very resourceful of her to make that shelter out of old packing cases. — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

re-spect¹ /rɪˈspekt/ *n* 1 [U (for)] the feeling that one admires someone or something very much and that they or it should be treated well and honourably: Show some respect to/Have some respect for your parents. | He commands the respect of (=has earned the respect of) all who know him well. | (used formally to introduce an expression of disagreement) With (the greatest) respect/With due respect, I think you're wrong. —opposite **disrespect**; see also **RESPECTS**, **SELF-RESPECT** 2 [U (for)] consideration or care: Out of respect for the wishes of her family, the affair was not reported in the newspapers. | If they had any respect for human life they wouldn't do such terrible things. 3 [in+C] a detail; particular point: This room is fine except in one respect — what can I sit on? | In many respects the new version is less good than the old one. 4 in respect of *fml* a concerning; with regard to *b* (esp. in business letters) in payment for: He will be paid £100 in respect of the work he has done. 5 without respect to without considering; without regard to: Anyone can join the club, without respect to class, race, or sex. —see also **IRRESPECTIVE** 6 with respect to (used esp. to introduce a new subject or one that has been mentioned earlier) concerning: With respect to your other proposals, I am not yet able to tell you our decision.

respect² *v* [T] 1 to feel respect for (esp. a person or their qualities): He's a man much respected by all his colleagues. | I deeply respect her courage. 2 to show careful consideration for: I promise to respect your wishes. | Please respect (=obey) the no smoking sign as long as it appears. —see also **SELF-RESPECTING**

re-spec-ta-bil-i-ty /rɪˈspektəˈbɪlɪti/ *n* [U] the quality of being RESPECTABLE (1): They got married for the sake of respectability.

re-spec-ta-ble /rɪˈspektəbəl/ *adj* 1 showing standards of behaviour, appearance, etc. that are socially acceptable, but may be thought of as boring and lacking in excitement, unwilling to take risks etc.: What an outrageous suggestion, young man — I'm a respectable married woman! | It's not respectable to be drunk in the street. | I must go and put on a clean shirt and make myself look respectable! | (derog) I'd never marry her; she's too respectable! 2 *informal* quite good; enough in amount or quality: England's football team won three matches out of five

— quite a respectable total. | a respectable income —bly adv — ~ness n [U]

re-spect-er /rɪ'spektə/ n [(of) usu. in negatives] someone or something that shows RESPECT¹ (1,2): *He's no respecter of persons.* (=does not respect rich or important people any more than ordinary people) | *A hurricane is no respecter of property.*

re-spect-ful /rɪ'spektfəl/ adj [(to)] feeling or showing RESPECT¹ (1): *The crowd stood in respectful silence as the funeral procession went by.* —opposite **disrespectful** — ~ly adv — ~ness n [U]

re-spect-ing /rɪ'spektɪŋ/ prep fml concerning; in respect of (RESPECT¹ (4a))

re-spec-tive /rɪ'spektɪv/ adj [A] of or for each one; particular and separate: *The two friends said goodbye and went to their respective homes.*

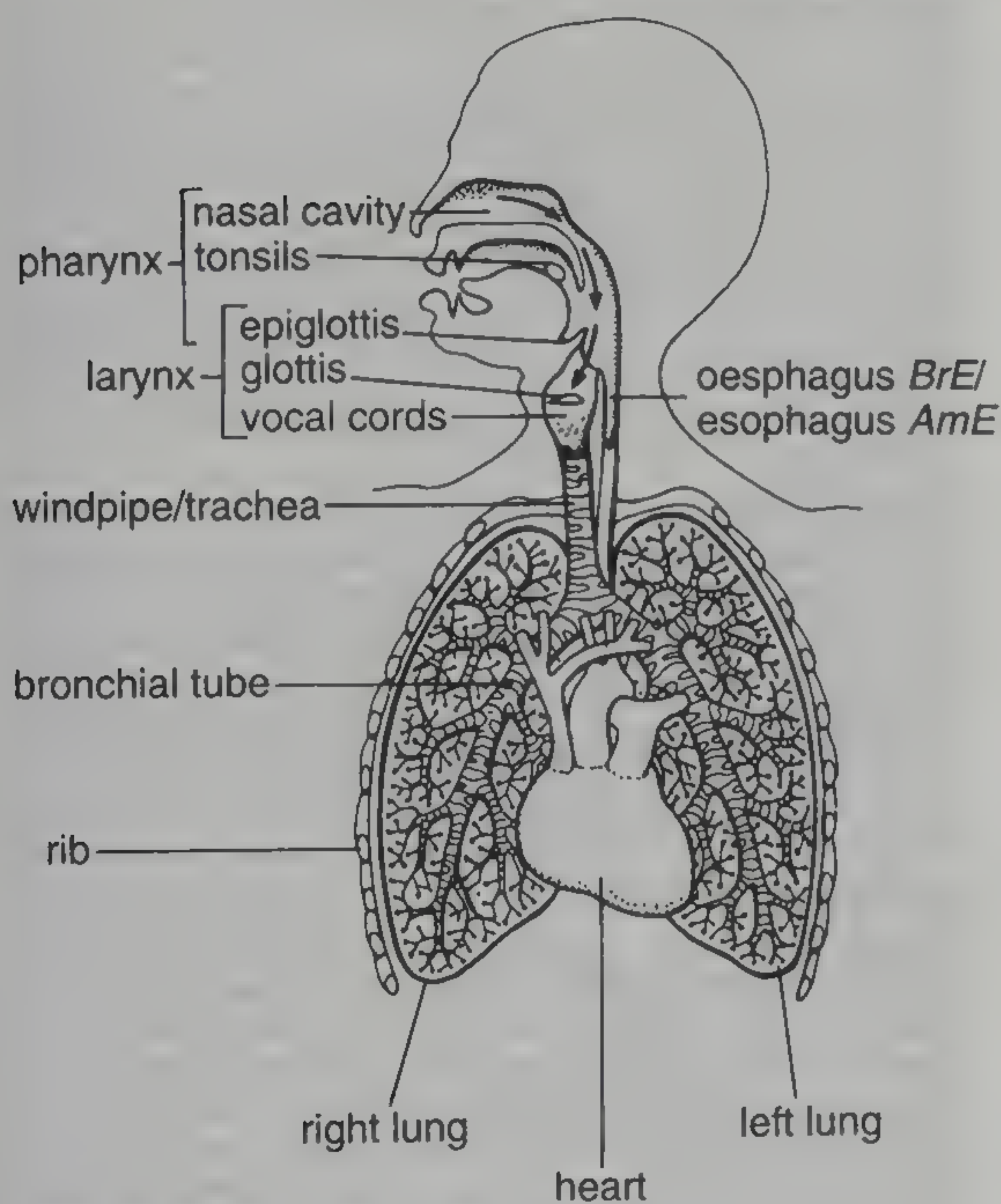
re-spec-tive-ly /rɪ'spektɪvli/ adv each separately in the order mentioned: *The nurses and the miners got pay rises of 5% and 7% respectively.* (=the nurses got 5% and the miners got 7%)

re-spects /rɪ'spekts/ n [P] 1 one's polite formal greetings; good wishes: *Give my respects to your wife.* | *Please send them my respects when you write.* 2 pay one's respects to fml to pay a polite visit to (a person): *I've come to pay my respects to the countess.*

res-pi-ra-tion /ˌrespə'reɪʃən/ n [U] fml or tech breathing: *Respiration becomes difficult at great heights.* —see also ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

res-pi-ra-tor /ˌrespə'reɪtə/ n an apparatus that is worn over the nose and mouth, to help people to breathe in spite of gas, smoke, etc.: *The firemen wore respirators.*

the respiratory system



re-spi-ra-to-ry /rɪ'spɪrətəri, 'respə'reɪtəri, rɪ'spaɪərə-|| 'respə'rətəri, rɪ'spaɪərə-/ adj fml or tech connected with breathing: *respiratory diseases/difficulties* | *the respiratory system* (=the lungs and the tubes leading to them)

re-spire /rɪ'spaɪə/ v [I] tech to breathe

res-pite /ˈrespɪt, -paɪt||-pɪt/ n [C usu. sing.;U] 1 [(from)] (a short period of) pause or rest, during a time of great effort, pain, or trouble: *a welcome/much needed respite from the continual hard work* | *The noise went on all night without (a moment's) respite.* 2 a welcome period of delay before doing or suffering something unpleasant; REPRIEVE: *The office will be shut until Monday, so we have a few days' respite before we need to pay the rent.*

re-splen-dent /rɪ'splendənt/ adj fml or pomp bright and shining; splendid in appearance: *the resplendent colours of the New England woods in autumn* | (fig.) *George*

arrived, resplendent in a new white suit. — ~ly adv : *resplendently dressed in purple silk* —dence n [U]

re-pond /rɪ'spɒnd||rɪ'spaɪnd/ v 1 [I (to);T] to say or write (something) in reply: *They still haven't responded to my letter.* | *"Yes, I'd love to come," he responded.* [+that] *He responded that he would come.* —see ANSWER (USAGE) 2 [I (by, to, with)] to do something in answer; REACT: *He responded (to my suggestion) with a laugh/by laughing.* 3 [I (to)] (esp. of a disease or a part of the body that is hurt) to get better as a result of treatment; REACT favourably: *The disease failed to respond to the drugs.* | *Is her leg responding to treatment?*

▷ USAGE Compare **respond** and **react**. In many contexts they are used with the same meaning but **react** has a sense of being more immediate and sometimes resulting from feeling more than thought, while **respond** suggests that some consideration has been involved. We may want to know someone's **reaction** simply from CURIOSITY but if we want to know their **response** it is because we need the information in order to make a decision, etc.◀

re-spon-dent /rɪ'spɒndənt||rɪ'spaɪn-/ n law a person who has to answer a charge in a law court, esp. in a DIVORCE case —compare CORRESPONDENT

re-sponse /rɪ'spɒns||rɪ'spaɪns/ n 1 [C (to)] a reply: *I asked him a question but he made/gave no response.* | *There have been several responses to our advertisement.* 2 [C;U (to)] (an) action done in answer: *There's been a generous response/a lukewarm response to the appeal on behalf of the earthquake victims.* | *Our call for new suggestions evoked (=produced) very little response.* | *She opened the door in response to the knock.* 3 [C usu. pl.] any of the parts of a religious service that are said or sung by the CONGREGATION (=people in a place of worship) in answer to the parts sung by the priest —see RESPOND (USAGE)

re-spon-si-bil-i-ty /rɪ'spɒnsɪ'bɪlɪti||rɪ'spaɪn-/ n 1 [U (for)] the condition or quality of being responsible: *I take (full) responsibility for losing the money.* (=I admit that it was my fault) | *The defence secretary has responsibility for (=is responsible for) the upkeep of the armed forces.* | *A terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the bombing.* | *a position of great responsibility in the government* | *We have joint responsibility (=we share the responsibility) for the running of the company.* 2 [U] the quality of being sensible and trustworthy: *Now that you're 13 you should have more sense of responsibility.* —opposite **irresponsibility** 3 [C] something for which one is RESPONSIBLE (2): *The head of a large company has many responsibilities.* | *It's your responsibility to make the decision.* 4 do something on one's own responsibility to do something without being told or officially allowed to

re-spon-si-ble /rɪ'spɒnsɪ'bəl||rɪ'spaɪn-/ adj 1 [F (for)] having done or been the cause of esp. something bad; guilty: *Who's responsible for this terrible mess?* | *These tax laws are responsible for a lot of hardship.* | *It was your idea, so if anything goes wrong I shall hold you personally responsible.* 2 [F (for, to)] having the duty of looking after someone or something, so that one can be blamed if things go wrong: *The teacher made me responsible (to her) for keeping the class in order while she went out.* 3 apprec sensible, trustworthy, and able to make good moral and practical judgments: *You can leave the children with him — he's very responsible.* —opposite **irresponsible** 4 (of a job) needing a trustworthy person to do it: *She holds a very responsible position in the firm.*

re-spon-si-bly /rɪ'spɒnsɪ'bli||rɪ'spaɪn-/ adv in a RESPONSIBLE (3) way: *I'll trust you to behave responsibly while I'm out.* —opposite **irresponsibly**

re-spon-sive /rɪ'spɒnsɪv||rɪ'spaɪn-/ adj 1 [(to)] giving the hoped-for response or result quickly or willingly: *This car's steering isn't very responsive.* (=you have to turn it hard to get the car to change direction) | *The disease isn't proving responsive to treatment.* | *I think you'll find she's more responsive to praise than to criticism.* 2 giving answers willingly: *He wasn't very responsive, so I asked her instead.* —opposite **unresponsive** — ~ly adv — ~ness n [U]

rest /rest/ n 1 [C;U (from)] (a period of) freedom from activity or from something tiring or worrying: *I'm tired; let's take/have a rest.* | *a well-earned rest after her exams* | *You need a good night's rest.* (=sleep) | *She needs*

rest (=peace, quiet, and little activity) *after her long illness.* | *I need a rest from all this hard work.* | (fig., *infml*) *Give it a rest, can't you!* (=stop being annoying, esp. by talking or making a noise) | (fig., *euph*) *She was laid to rest* (=buried) *in the village churchyard.* | (fig.) *I'm glad that ridiculous plan has finally been laid to rest.* (=got rid of) | *The letter from her daughter set her mind at rest.* (=freed her from anxiety) **2** [U] the condition of not moving: *The ball rolled down the hill and came to rest* (=stopped) *at the bottom.* | *Measure the mass of the body while it is at rest.* **3** [C] (often in comb.) a support, esp. for the stated thing: *an armrest* | *This wall will do as a rest for your camera.* —see also **HEADREST**, and see picture at **CAR** **4** [C] (in music) **a** a period of silence of a fixed length **b** any of a set of signs, such as ♯, that mark the length of these periods

rest² *v* **1** [I (from); T] to (allow to) take a rest: *I always rest for an hour after dinner.* | *Sit down and rest your feet.* | (fig., *euph*) *Let him rest* (=lie buried) *in peace.* | (fig., *euph*) *She's lying in her last resting-place.* (=grave) **2** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to (allow to) lean or be supported: *Rest your bicycle against the wall/your head on my shoulder.* | *The ladder rested on/against the wall.* —see also **REST on/upon**. **3** [I only in negatives] to stop being active; be calm: *The police said they wouldn't rest until all the criminals were caught.* | *I will not rest until I know he's safe.* **4** [I+adv/prep] to be discontinued; not be talked about further: *We decided to let the matter/the argument rest, because it was obvious we would never agree.* **5** [I; T] *law a* (of a case in a law court) to have been fully explained: *My case rests.* **b** to stop explaining (one's case) to the court, because enough has been said: *I rest my case, my lord.* | *The prosecution rested (its case) after three days of testimony.* | *The defense rests, your Honor.* **6 rest assured** *usu. imperative* to be certain: *Rest assured/You can rest assured that we will do all we can.*

rest on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to lean on; be supported by: *The bridge rests on stone arches.* —see also **REST**² **(2)** **2** (of sight or the eyes) to be directed on; fall on: *His eyes rested on the empty seat.* **3 fml** (esp. of a proof, argument, etc.) to depend on esp. be based on: *Your argument rests on a statement that can't be proved.* | *We've tried everything: now it all rests on him.* **4 rest on one's laurels** *derog* to be satisfied with what one has done already, and therefore not do any more

rest with sbdy. *phr v* [T no pass.] *fml* to be the responsibility of: *The decision rests with you.* | *The fate of these prisoners rests with the judge.*

rest³ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] **1** what is left; the ones that still remain: *We'll eat some of the butter and keep the rest (of it) for breakfast.* | *Only ten students attended the class because all the rest (of them) were off sick.* | *John's Scottish and the rest of us are Welsh.* **2 for the rest** apart from what has already been mentioned; as for everything else

Re-start /'ri:stɑ:t|-ɑ:rt/ the name of a British government SCHEME for people who have been unemployed for six months or more. It is intended to help them find work by providing advice, information, and TRAINING.

re-state /,ri:'steit/ *v* [T] to state again or in a different way: *Do I have to restate my objections to this ridiculous plan?* | *Seeing his look of confusion, she tried to restate her opinion more clearly.* — **ment** *n* [C; U]

res-tau-rant /'restəʊrnt|-rənt, -rɑ:nt/ *n* a place where meals are prepared, sold, and eaten

restaurant car /'...-/ *n* a DINING CAR

res-tau-ra-teur /,restə'rɑ:tɜ:/ also **rest-au-ran-teur** /,restəʊn'tɜ:/ *esp. AmE—n* the owner of a restaurant, esp. one who runs it himself or herself

rest cure /'...-/ *n* a course of treatment, often for people with illnesses of the mind, consisting of rest from one's usual activities: *Make an effort; this is a battle training course, not a rest cure!*

rest-ful /'restfəl/ *adj* peaceful and quiet; giving one a feeling of rest: *Pale greens and yellows make a restful colour scheme for a room.* | *a restful holiday/atmosphere* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

rest home /'...-/ *n* an establishment where old or ill people are looked after —see **RESIDENTIAL CARE** (**CULTURAL NOTE**)

res-ti-tu-tion /,restɪ'tju:ʃən|-tʊ:ʃən/ *n* [U (to)] *fml* the act of returning something lost or stolen to its owner, or of paying for damage: *The court ordered him to make full*

restitution of the money to the people he had stolen it from.

res-tive /'restiv/ *adj* unwilling to keep still or be controlled; nervous: *The horses are restive tonight; there must be wolves about.* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

rest-less /'restləs/ *adj* **1** giving no rest: *I spent a very restless night.* (=could not sleep) **2** unwilling or unable to stay still, esp. because of anxiety or lack of interest: *After listening to him for three hours the audience became restless.* | *He's been feeling very restless lately and is applying for jobs abroad.* | *the restless sea* — **ly** *adv* — **ness** *n* [U]

re-stock /,ri:'stɒk||,ri:'stɑ:k/ *v* [I; T (with)] to get a new supply of things (for): *to restock the shelves in a supermarket* | *The lake has been restocked with fish.*

res-to-ra-tion /,restə'reɪʃən/ *n* [C; U] (an example of) the act of restoring or condition of being restored: *The army's task was the restoration of public order.* | *We gave money to the church restoration fund.* | *This restoration of a prehistoric village shows what it must have looked like.*

Restoration [*the*] (the period in Britain following) the return of Charles II as king in 1660. The period was characterized by advances in trade, opposition to the ROMAN CATHOLIC religion, the establishment of the WHIG and TORY political parties, and new developments in poetry and the theatre.

Restoration com-e-dy /,rɪ'stɔ:reɪʃən/ *n* a type of play that was popular in England at the time of the Restoration, characterized by its SATIRICAL humour and jokes about society, e.g. *She Stoops to Conquer* written by Oliver Goldsmith

re-sto-ra-tive /rɪ'stɔ:reɪtɪv/ *n, adj fml* or *old-fash* (a food, medicine, etc.) that brings back health and strength

re-store /rɪ'stɔ:ɪ/ *v* [T] **1** to bring back into use or existence; introduce again: *The army was called in to restore law and order.* | *This proposal would restore the tax advantages that small business used to enjoy.* **2** [(to)] to put back into a former position: *The new manager's job is to restore the company to profitability.* **3** [(to) *usu. pass.*] to bring back to a good or desirable state, esp. of health: *I feel quite restored (to health) after my holiday.* **4** to put (esp. an old building, piece of furniture, or work of art) back into its original state: *The old painting was damaged in the flood and had to be painstakingly restored.* **5** [(to)] *rather fml* to give back: *The stolen property must be restored to its owner.* — **stor-er** *n* [C; U]: *He's a picture restorer.* | *a bottle of hair restorer* (=for people whose hair is falling out)

re-strain /rɪ'streɪn/ *v* [T (from)] to control or prevent from doing something, esp. by use of force: *If you can't restrain your dog (from biting people) you must lock it up.* | *I had to restrain myself from telling him what I thought of him.*

re-strained /rɪ'streɪnd/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) calm and controlled; not showing strong feelings: *a restrained and cool-headed response to their unfair criticisms* — *opposite unrestrained* **2** not bright or highly decorated: *a room painted in restrained colours*

re-straint /rɪ'streɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] *often apprec* the quality of being restrained or restraining oneself: *I think you showed great restraint in not hitting him after what he said.* | *a policy of wage restraint* (=holding back from giving or asking for higher wages) **2** [C (on) *usu. pl.*] something that restrains; restriction: *government restraints imposed on foreign trade* | *constitutional restraints on the power of the president* | *She was put in restraints after her violent attack.* **3** [U] the condition of having no freedom of action or movement: *He went mad and had to be kept under restraint.* **4** [C] a SEAT BELT in a car: *Children from four to 14 years old travelling in the back of a car must use a restraint specifically designed for them or an adult safety belt.*

re-strict /rɪ'strɪkt/ *v* [T (to)] to keep within limits of size or number or to a certain limit: *I restrict myself to (smoking) two cigarettes a day.* | *laws to restrict the sale of alcohol* | *We had to restrict the number of students on this course.* —compare **CONstrict**

re-strict-ed /rɪ'strɪktɪd/ *adj* **1** [(to)] controlled or limited in some way, esp. by law: *The sale of alcohol is restricted in Britain.* | *Membership of the club is restricted to people under 30.* (=only people under 30 can join) **2** for a particular purpose, or for the use of a particular group only: *a restricted area, where only the army are allowed to go* | *This information is restricted.* (=secret) **3** sometimes

derog limited in space; narrow and shut in: *I need a bigger kitchen — it's hard to work in such a restricted space.* | (fig.) *He leads a very restricted life.*

re-stric-tion /rɪˈstriktʃən/ *n* [C;U (on)] the act of restricting, or something that restricts: *The law imposes restrictions on the export of high-technology goods.* | *speed/currency restrictions*

re-stric-tive /rɪˈstriktɪv/ *adj* **1** tending to restrict; limiting: *He finds life in a small town too restrictive.* | *an attempt to get rid of restrictive practices* (=rules or ways of working that limit the freedom of workers or employers) **2** *tech* (of a CLAUSE) saying which person or thing is meant, rather than giving additional information: *In "the man who came to dinner" the words "who came to dinner" are a restrictive clause, because they tell us which man is meant.* —compare NONRESTRICTIVE — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

restrictive prac-tice /ˌrɪˌstrɪktɪv/ *n* **1** a trading agreement which is against the public interest **2** a limitation on what work a union will allow workers from other unions to do

rest room /ˈrɛst ˌruːm/ *n* *AmE euph* a public TOILET in a hotel, restaurant, etc. —see TOILET (USAGE)

rest stop /ˈrɛst ˌstɒp/ *n* a place near an American road or HIGHWAY where there are TOILETS and where people can eat in the open air

re-struc-ture /ˌrɪˌstrʌktʃə/ *v* [T] to arrange (a system or organization) in a new way; give a new structure to: *the restructuring of local government*

re-sult¹ /rɪˈzʌlt/ *v* [I (from)] to happen as an effect or result; be the CONSEQUENCE (of): *If these two substances are combined, an enormous explosion will result.* | *His illness resulted from* (=was caused by) *eating contaminated food.*

result in sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] to have as a result; cause: *The accident resulted in the death of two passengers.* [+obj+*v-ing*] *The accident resulted in two passengers dying.*

result² *n* **1** [C;U (of)] something that happens because of an action or event: *His illness is a/the result of eating contaminated food.* | *She was late as a result of* (=because of) *the snow.* | *These problems are the result of years of bad management.* | (*fml*) *I was away on business, with the result that* (=so that) *I missed the vital meeting.* | *The net result* (=the result at the end) *of all our discussions was that she agreed to take the job.* **2** [C;U] (a) noticeable good effect: *Your hard work is beginning to show results.* **3** [C (of)] (a report of) the success or failure of a person, team, organization, etc. in an examination, sports match, etc.: *The football results are broadcast on the radio.* | *The result (of the match) was 1–0 to England.* | *When will you get your exam results?* | *The company's annual results show a profit of over \$5 million.* **4** [C] the answer to a sum: *Let's both add it up and see if we get the same result.* **5** [C] *BrE infml* (esp. in football) a win: *If we don't get a result tonight we'll be put down into a lower division.*

re-sul-tant /rɪˈzʌltənt/ *adj* [A] *fml* happening as an effect; resulting: *He was arrested for drunkenness and the resultant publicity ruined his career.*

re-sume /rɪˈzjuːm||rɪˈzuːm/ *v* **1** [I;T] *rather fml* to begin again after a pause: *Let us resume where we left off.* | *We resumed our journey/our discussions after a short rest.* [+*v-ing*] *We'll stop now and resume working at two o'clock.* **2** [T] *fml* to take again: *Kindly resume your seats, ladies and gentlemen.*

ré-su-mé /ˈrezjumeɪ, ˈrei-||, rezuˈmeɪ/ *n* **1** [(of)] a shortened form of a speech, book, etc.; SUMMARY **2** *AmE for* CURRICULUM VITAE

re-sump-tion /rɪˈzʌmpʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* the act of resuming: *the resumption of business after a holiday*

re-sur-face /ˌrɪˌsɜːfɪs||-3ɜːr-/ *v* **1** [T] to put a new surface on (a road) **2** [I] to come back to the surface: *The children watched as the submarine resurfaced.* | (fig.) *Old rivalries are beginning to resurface.*

re-sur-gence /rɪˈsɜːdʒəns||-3ɜːr-/ *n* [S;U] the return of ideas, beliefs, etc. to a state of being active and noticeable: *There has been a resurgence of interest in her work after a period of neglect.* | *a resurgence of terrorist activity* —**gent** *adj*: *resurgent interest*

res-ur-rect /ˌrezəˈrekt/ *v* [T] **1** *often derog* to bring back into use, existence, or fashion; REVIVE: *The government resurrected an ancient law in order to punish the ringleaders.* |

It's a mistake to resurrect old quarrels. **2** *rare* to bring back to life

res-ur-rec-tion /ˌrezəˈrekʃən/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the act of resurrecting something; renewal: *The plan has now been dropped, with little hope of resurrection.* **2** **I am the resurrection and the life** *phrase from the Bible* one of the most important phrases said by Jesus, a promise that people who believe in him will live forever

Resurrection [the] **1** the return of Christ to life after his death as described in the Bible, which is remembered with ceremonies at Easter, and is one of the main beliefs on which Christianity is based **2** the return of all dead people to life at the end of the world. Christians believe that, as a result of Christ's resurrection, the souls of people who believe in him will be united with their bodies on JUDGMENT DAY, in the form that will last for ever.

re-sus-ci-tate /rɪˈsasɪteɪ/ *v* [T] to bring (a person or animal that is almost dead) back to life: *They tried to resuscitate the drowned man.* —**tation** /rɪˈsasɪˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *Despite our attempts at resuscitation, she died.*

re-tail¹ /ˈriːteɪl/ *n* [U] the sale of goods in shops to customers, for their own use and not for selling to anyone else: *the retail of goods* | *retail prices* | *a retail outlet* (=a shop) —compare WHOLESALE¹

retail² *adv* by retail; from a retailer: *I bought it retail.*

re-tail³ /rɪˈteɪl/ *v* **1** [I+at/for;T] *tech* to sell or be sold by retail: *In this shop they retail tobacco and sweets.* | *These socks retail at £5 a pair.* **2** [T] *fml* to tell (esp. unpleasant facts about a person) to other people: *Who is responsible for retailing these rumours about him?*

retail bank /ˈrɛɪl ˌbæŋk/ *n* *BrE* a bank which has branches in many towns and provides services to ordinary people and small companies

re-tail-er /ˈriːteɪlə/ *n* someone who sells things by retail; shopkeeper

retail price in-dex /ˌrɛɪl ˌpraɪs ɪnˈdeks/ also **RPI**— [the] an official system (in Britain) which is a monthly measure of the prices of goods and services bought by an average person, to show changes in the cost of living —see also CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

retail trade /ˈrɛɪl ˌtreɪd/ *n* **1** [U] the business of selling goods to the public in shops **2** [C] a particular kind of business that sells goods to the public in shops

re-tain /rɪˈteɪn/ *v* [T] *rather fml* **1** to keep possession of; avoid losing: *She tried to retain her self-control/her balance.* | *This village still retains its old-world character.* | *His business has been taken over by a big corporation, but he still retains some control over it.* | *Lead retains heat well.* | *a heavy soil that retains water* —see also RETENTION **2** to hold in place: *The dam retains the waters of the lake.* | *A retaining wall holds the earth in place.* **3** to employ (esp. a lawyer or adviser) to act for one, by paying in advance

re-tain-er /rɪˈteɪnə/ *n* **1** a sum of money paid to someone, esp. a lawyer, for their advice and help **2** *old-fash* a servant, esp. one who has always worked for a particular person or family: *an old and trusted retainer*

re-take¹ /ˌrɪːteɪk/ *v* -took /ˈtʊk/, -taken /ˈteɪkən/ [T] **1** to regain possession of (a place lost in war): *We retook the city after severe fighting.* **2** to record or film again

re-take² /ˌrɪːteɪk/ *n* an act of filming or recording something again: *I forgot my lines, so they had to do a retake.*

re-tal-i-ate /rɪˈtæliet/ *v* [I (against)] to do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you: *One of their players kicked me, so I retaliated and kicked him back.* | *When they refused to allow our exports into their country, we retaliated by putting a tax on goods from their country.* —**-ation** /rɪˈtæliˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *The government decided against military retaliation for the terrorist attack.* | *a tax imposed in retaliation for their import restrictions*

re-tal-i-a-to-ry /rɪˈtæliətəri||-tɔːri/ *adj fml* done in retaliation: *a retaliatory kick* | *a retaliatory bombing raid*

re-tard¹ /rɪˈtɑːd||-ɑːrd/ *v* [T] *esp. fml or tech* to delay, esp. in development, cause to happen later than usual or expected: *Cold weather retards the growth of the crops.* —**-ation** /ˌrɪtɑːˈdeɪʃən||-ɑːr-/ *n* [U]

re-tard² /ˌrɪtɑːd||-ɑːrd/ *n* *AmE infml derog* a person with a mental disability; an offensive word used esp. by children

re-tard-ed /rɪ'tɑːdɪd/ -ɑːr- / *adj* (esp. of a child) slower in development or less able than others: *Lucy is very retarded and can't read yet.* | *mentally retarded*

retch /retʃ/ *v* [I] to try to VOMIT (=be sick) esp. without success

retd *written abbrev. for: RETIRED* (1): *Captain Percy Truscott RN (retd)*

re-tell /,rɪ:'tel/ *v* -told /'təʊld/ [T] to tell (a story) again in a new way or different language: *German fairy stories retold in English*

re-ten-tion /rɪ'tenʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* the state or action of retaining (RETAIN): *Retention of urine is the inability to pass urine from the body.* | *The swelling is due to water retention.* | *They advocate the retention of our nuclear power plants.* (=that they should be kept)

re-ten-tive /rɪ'tentɪv/ *adj* able to RETAIN things, esp. facts in the mind: *She has a very retentive memory.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

re-think¹ /,rɪ:'θɪŋk/ *v* -thought /'θɔːt/ [I;T] to think (about) again; reconsider (an idea, plan, etc.), esp. with the likelihood of changing it: *We'd better rethink our whole strategy.* | *If that's what he wants, he'll have to rethink.*

re-think² /'rɪθɪŋk/ *n* [S] an act of rethinking: *It's clearly not going to work in the way we'd originally intended; we'll have to have a rethink.*

ret-i-cent /'retɪsənt/ *adj* (of a person or their behaviour) unwilling to speak; not expressing as much as is known or felt: *He was reticent about the reasons for the quarrel.* — *~ly adv* — **-cence** *n* [U]

re-tic-u-la-ted /rɪ'tɪkjʊleɪtɪd/ also **re-tic-u-late** /-kjuːleɪt/ — *adj* *tech* forming or covered with a netlike pattern of squares and lines: *a reticulated leaf*

re-tic-u-la-tion /rɪ'tɪkjʊleɪʃən/ *n* [C often *pl.*;U] *tech* (a) netlike pattern: *a snake covered with beautiful orange and black reticulations*

ret-i-cule /'retɪkjʊl/ *n* *old use or humor* a small handbag

ret-i-na /'retɪnə/ *n* -nas or -nae /niː/ an area at the back of the eye that receives light and sends an image of what is seen through nerves to the brain —see picture at EYE

ret-i-nue /'retɪnjuː/ -nuː/ *n* [C+*sing./pl.* *v*] a group of helpers and followers travelling with an important person: *Two whole floors of the hotel were booked for the president's retinue.*

re-tire /rɪ'taɪə/ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) stop working at one's job, profession, etc., usu. because of age: *My father retired (from his job in the Civil Service) at the age of 60.* | *They retired her on full pay.*

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In Britain the age at which people retire depends on the company they work for and the type of work they do, but on average women retire at 60 and men retire at 65 as this is when they are allowed to receive the state retirement PENSION. In the US workers can get their full SOCIAL SECURITY payments at age 65, or they can get a part of them if they wish to retire earlier. —compare RESIGN (1) ◀

2 [I (from, to)] *fml* to go away to a quiet or less central place: *Members of the jury, you must now retire to consider your verdict.* 3 [I] *fml or humor* to go to bed —compare RISE¹ (5) 4 [I] (esp. of an army) to move back intentionally, without being forced to: *Our armies have retired to regroup for a fresh attack.* —compare RETREAT² 5 **light the blue touchpaper and retire immediately** a phrase used in the directions printed on FIREWORKS, meaning that one should light the firework and then move away immediately

re-tired /rɪ'taɪəd/ -'taɪərd/ *adj* 1 [no *comp.*] (of a person) having stopped working, usu. because of age: *My father is retired/is a retired doctor.* 2 *old-fash fml* (of a place) far from crowds and large towns

re-tire-ment /rɪ'taɪəmənt/ -'taɪər- / *n* 1 [C;U] (a case of) retiring (RETIRE (1)): *His employers gave him a gold watch on his retirement.* | *We've had two retirements in our office this year.* | *a retirement present* —see also EARLY RETIREMENT

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In the past, workers who had worked for a company for a long time were given a gold watch by the company when they retired. People still mention this, although it does not often happen now. ◀

2 [S;U] the period after one has retired: *What will you do*

to pass your time during your retirement? | *a long and happy retirement* | *a retirement pension*

retirement pen-sion /-ˈpiːn- / *n* OLD AGE PENSION

retirement plan /-ˈplæn- / *n* AmE for PENSION PLAN

re-tir-ing /rɪ'taɪərɪŋ/ *adj* (typical of a person) who generally avoids the company of others; SHY and RESERVED: *Jane is a shy retiring girl/has a retiring nature, and hates parties.*

re-tort¹ /rɪ'tɔːt/ -ɔːrt/ *v* [T] to make a RETORT²: "Of course not," she retorted. [+*(that)*] *He retorted that it was all my fault.* —see ANSWER (USAGE)

retort² *n* a quick, angry, rude, or amusing answer

retort³ *n* a bottle with a long narrow bent neck, used for heating chemicals

re-touch /,rɪ:'tʌtʃ/ *v* [T] to improve (a picture or photograph) by adding small strokes with a brush or pencil

re-trace /rɪ'treɪs, rɪː-/ *v* [T] to go back over (esp. a journey or a course of events): *The police have succeeded in retracing his movements on the night of the crime.* | *She retraced her steps* (=went back exactly the way she had come) *to try to find her lost ring.*

re-tract /rɪ'trækt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* 1 to state, esp. officially, that (a statement or offer that one has made) is not true or can no longer be accepted; WITHDRAW: *At the trial, the prisoner retracted his confession.* 2 to (cause to) draw back or in: *The aircraft's undercarriage retracted as it climbed into the air.* | *A cat can retract its claws, but a dog can't.* — *~able adj*: *an aircraft with a retractable undercarriage* — *~ion* /'trækʃən/ *n* [C;U]: *The newspaper was forced to publish a retraction of all the allegations they had made against her.*

re-trac-tile /rɪ'træktəl/ -tl/ *adj* *tech* (esp. of a CLAW) that can be retracted (RETRACT (2))

re-train /,rɪ:'treɪn/ *v* [I;T] to learn, or teach, the skills of a different job, esp. because one is (about to become) unemployed —**retraining** *n* [U]

re-tread¹ /,rɪ:'tred/ also **remould** BrE || **recap** AmE— *v* [T] to renew the rubber covering on the bare surface of (a worn tyre)

re-tread² /'rɪ:tred/ *n* 1 also **remould** BrE || **recap** AmE— a retreaded tyre 2 AmE RETARD² 3 AmE a person, esp. an older one, who has been trained to do a kind of work which is different from what they did before

re-treat¹ /rɪ'triːt/ *n* 1 [C;U (from, to)] (an act of) retreating: *Napoleon's retreat from Moscow* | *The army fell back in full retreat.* | (fig.) *The latest concessions mark a significant retreat from the President's hard-line policy.* —compare ADVANCE² (1) 2 [the+S] a military signal for retreating: *The general ordered the bugler to sound the retreat.* 3 [C] a place into which one can go for peace and safety: *He has a little retreat in the mountains.* 4 [C;U] (the practice of spending) a period of prayer, thought, and religious study, with a group: *They spent a week in retreat/on a retreat.* —see also **beat a retreat** (BEAT¹ (8))

retreat² *v* [I (from, to)] to move back or leave a centre of fighting or other activity, esp. when forced to do so: *The defeated army had to retreat hastily (from the field of battle to the coast).* | *firefighters retreating from an uncontrollable forest fire* | (fig.) *The opposition groups forced the government to retreat on their proposed pay legislation.* —compare ADVANCE¹ (1), RETIRE (4)

re-trench /rɪ'trentʃ/ *v* [I] *fml* (of a government, business, etc.) to arrange to spend less; cut costs — *~ment* [C;U]: *The worsening economic situation has forced the government into a policy of retrenchment.*

re-tri-al /'rɪ:traɪəl/ *n* an act of trying a law case again; new trial: *Some members of the jury had been bribed, so the judge ordered a retrial.*

ret-ri-bu-tion /,retrɪ'bjuːʃən/ *n* [S;U (for)] *fml* (a) severe deserved punishment: *The public are demanding swift and effective retribution for this act of terrorism.*

re-trib-u-tive /rɪ'trɪbjʊtɪv/ *adj* *fml* done as a deserved punishment: *retributive measures*

re-triev-al /rɪ'trɪvəl/ *n* [U] *fml* the act or process of retrieving: *The court ordered the retrieval of the confiscated funds.* | *a computerized retrieval system that will enable you to find the information you want within a few*

seconds. | *I'm afraid the situation is beyond/past retrieval.* (=cannot now be put right)

re-trieve /rɪ'tri:v/ *v* 1 [T (from)] *usu. fml or tech* to find and bring back; regain: *I went and retrieved the bag I had left on the train.* | *This computer can retrieve stored information in a matter of seconds.* | *Wreckage from the crashed plane was retrieved from the ocean.* 2 [T] to put right; make up for (a mistake, loss, defeat, etc.): *She tried to retrieve the situation by making profuse apologies.* 3 [I;T] (of a dog) to bring back (shot birds) —**retrievable** *adj*

re-tri-er /rɪ'tri:və/ *n* a type of middle-sized hunting dog trained to bring back shot birds

retro- see WORD FORMATION

ret-ro-ac-tive /,retɹəʊ'æktiv/ also **retrospective** — *adj fml* (esp. of a law) having effect on the past as well as on the future: *a retroactive pay increase* — *~ly adv*

ret-ro-flex /'retɹəfleks/ also **ret-ro-flexed** /-flest/ — *adj* 1 *tech* (of a speech sound) made with the TIP (=point) of the tongue curled upwards and backwards 2 *fml* turned or bent sharply backwards

ret-ro-grade /'retɹəgreɪd/ *adj fml derog* seeming to show a return to an earlier and worse state: *Selling off all our nationalized companies to private ownership is a very retrograde step.*

ret-ro-gress /,retɹə'gres/ *v* [I (to)] *fml or tech* to go back to an earlier and worse state — *~ion* /'grefʃən/ *n* [U]

ret-ro-gres-sive /,retɹə'gresɪv/ *adj fml derog* retrograde: *retrogressive changes to the tax laws* — *~ly adv*

ret-ro-rock-et /'retɹəʊ ,rɒkɪt/ — *n* a ROCKET that is used for slowing down or changing the direction of an aircraft or spacecraft by firing forwards

ret-ro-spect /'retɹəspekt/ *n* in **retrospect** thinking back to the past from the present: *My school life seems happier in retrospect than it seemed at the time.* | *In retrospect, it is now clear that this battle was a turning point in the war.*

ret-ro-spec-tion /,retɹə'spekʃən/ *n* [U] thought about the past: *the pleasures of retrospection*

ret-ro-spec-tive 1 /,retɹə'spektɪv/ *adj* 1 concerned with or thinking about the past: *in a retrospective mood* 2 (esp. of a law) RETROACTIVE — *~ly adv*

retrospective 2 also **retrospective ex-hi-bi-tion** /,..... / — *n* a show of the work of a painter, SCULPTOR, etc. from his or her earliest years up to the present time

re-trous-sé /rə'tru:seɪ/ || rə'tru:seɪ/ *adj Fr, often apprec* (of a nose) turned up at the lower end

ret-si-na /ret'si:nə/ *n* [U] a Greek wine that tastes of the RESIN (=juice) of certain trees

re-turn 1 /rɪ'tʒ:n/ || -ʒ:m/ *v* 1 [I (from, to)] to come or go back to a former place, condition, or activity: *When are you returning home/returning to London?* | *What time does your wife return from work?* | *The dispute between transport workers and management has been settled and services will return to normal tomorrow.* | *He gave up drinking for a while, but soon returned to his old ways.* | *Let's return to the main point of the discussion.* — see also RETURNER 2 [T (to)] to give, put, or send back: *I'm going to the library to return my books.* | *Fortunately the hostages were returned unharmed.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Don't forget to return me my keys!* | *We returned the empty bottles to the shop.* 3 [T] to give or do in exchange; REPAY: *She wondered whether he would return the/her visit.* (=go to see her after she had been to see him) | *He told her she was very clever and she returned the compliment.* (=said something nice about him in return) 4 [T (to)] to elect to a political position: *At the general election she was returned (to Parliament) with an increased majority.* 5 [T] (of a JURY) to give (a VERDICT): *They returned a verdict of "Not Guilty".* 6 [T] to produce as a profit; YIELD: *These shares return a good rate of interest.* 7 [T] *fml* to give an official account of, esp. in answer to a demand: *He returned his earnings as £9000 on the tax declaration.* 8 **return to work** (of a woman) to go back to work after having children and looking after them for a few years: *She's thinking of returning to work.*

return 2 *n* 1 [C;U (from, to)] the act or an example of returning (RETURN 1 (1)): *We look forward to your return (from China).* | *On his return* (=when he came back) *he found her asleep.* | *Keep some food to eat on the return journey.* | *This cold weather has brought a return of the flu epidemic.* | *The army has promised a return to civilian*

rule within two years. 2 [U] the act of giving, putting, or sending something back: *The library is demanding the return of the books.* | *The spectators cheered the tennis champion's return of service.* | *After the game the players arranged a return match.* (=to play each other again) 3 also **returns pl.** — [C] an amount of money produced as a profit: *These shares have brought in good returns.* | *We guarantee a high return on your investment.* 4 [C] an official account, esp. of money earned or spent: *Make sure you put in all your earnings on your tax return.* 5 [C] BrE a RETURN ticket 6 **by return (of post)** esp. BrE by the next post: *Please let us know your answer by return.* 7 **in return (for)** in exchange or as payment (for): *He agreed to give evidence against the terrorists in return for a guarantee of protection.* | *They are letting us use their computer, and in return we are giving them the results of our research.* 8 **many happy returns (of the day)** (used as a birthday greeting)

return 3 BrE || **round-trip** AmE — *adj* (of a ticket or its cost) for a trip from one place to another and back again: *The price is £1 single and £1.80 return.* — compare SINGLE 1 (6); see also DAY RETURN

re-tur-na-ble /rɪ'tʒ:nəbəl/ || -ʒ:r-/ *adj* 1 that can be given or sent back, often to be used again: *returnable bottles* — opposite **nonreturnable** 2 *fml* that must be given or sent back: *The writ is returnable immediately.*

re-turn-er /rɪ'tʒ:nə/ || -ʒ:r-/ *n* BrE a person who goes back to work after a long time away, esp. a woman who returns to a job after spending time at home with her children: *government plans to help returners*

returning of-fi-cer /'rɪ.. ,.../ *n* (in Britain) the official in each town or area who arranges an election to Parliament and gives out the result

Reu-ben sand-wich /'ru:bən ,sænwidʒ/ || -sændwɪʃ, -sænwɪʃ/ *n* (in the US) a popular sandwich made of salt beef, SWISS CHEESE, and SAUERKRAUT *usu.* on RYE bread

re-u-ni-fy /rɪ:'ju:nɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] to join the parts of (e.g. a divided country) again — compare REUNITE — **reunification** /rɪ:'ju:nɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *the reunification of Germany*

re-u-nion /rɪ:'ju:njən/ *n* 1 [C] a meeting of friends or fellow-workers after a separation: *We hold an annual reunion of former students of the college.* 2 [U] the state of being brought together again

re-u-nite /rɪ'ju:nɪt/ *v* [I;T (with)] to (cause to) come or join together again: *Do you think the two parts of Ireland will ever reunite?* | *After the hijacking, the hostages were reunited with their families.*

re-up-hol-ster /rɪ'ʌp'həʊlstə/ *v* [T] to replace the coverings and fillings of (a seat): *I'd like to have that chair reupholstered.*

re-use /rɪ'ju:z/ *v* [T] 1 to use again 2 to RECYCLE — **reusable** *adj*

Reu-ters /'rɔɪtəz/ || -ərz/ a British company which employs journalists in many different countries to send news from all over the world to sell to newspapers, etc.

rev 1 /rev/ *n infml* for REVOLUTION (4): *The engine is on low revs.* (=is turning slowly)

rev 2 *v -vv- infml* 1 [T (UP)] to increase the speed of (an engine): *Don't rev (up) your engine so loudly — you'll wake the baby.* | (fig.) *We need to rev up production if we're going to reach our target for this year.* 2 [I (UP)] (of an engine) to increase speed: *We could hear a car revving (up) in the driveway.*

Rev also **Revd** BrE || **Rev.** AmE written abbrev for: REVEREND: *the Rev D. Macleod*

re-val-ue /rɪ:'vælju:/ *v* [T] 1 to find out or state the latest or real value of; make a new VALUATION of: *We're having all the contents of our house revalued for insurance purposes.* 2 to increase the exchange value of (a country's money): *The dollar is being revalued.* — compare DEVALUE (1) — **uation** /rɪ:'vælju'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re-vamp /rɪ:'væmp/ *v* [T] *infml* to give a new (and better) form or structure to (something old): *a radical plan to revamp the whole system of secondary education*

re-veal /rɪ'vi:l/ *v* [T] 1 to show or allow (something previously hidden) to be seen: *The curtains opened, to reveal a darkened stage.* 2 to make known (something previously secret or unknown): *Do you promise not to reveal my secret?* | *The investigation has revealed some serious*

faults in the system. [+that] I can now reveal that the new director is to be James Johnson.

re-veal-ing /rɪˈviːlɪŋ/ *adj* **1** allowing parts to be seen which are usually kept covered: *a very revealing dress* **2** giving some esp. interesting or unexpected information which had been unknown: *She made some very revealing comments when I had a private chat with her.*

re-veil-le /rɪˈvæli/ *n* [(the) S] music played as a signal to waken soldiers in the morning: *When (the) reveille sounds/is sounded, we all leap out of bed.*

rev-el /ˈrevəl/ *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [I] old use or humor to pass the time in dancing, eating, drinking, etc. esp. wildly at a party or celebration: *They were revelling all night.* — *~ler BrE* || *~er AmE n*: *We were kept awake by crowds of noisy revellers.*

revel in sthg. *phr v* [T] to enjoy greatly; get pleasure from (esp. something unpleasant or something that most other people do not enjoy): *to revel in scandal* | *She revels in all the attention she gets from the media.* [+v-ing] *He seems to revel in inflicting pain.*

rev-e-la-tion /ˌrevəˈleɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the making known of something secret: *The revelation of his scandalous past led to his resignation.* **2** [C] an often surprising fact that is made known, esp. one that explains or makes something clear: *Have you read the ex-minister's amazing revelations in the newspaper?* [+that] *The revelation that he was her father astonished her.* **3** [C;U] (an example of) the making known of the truth by God

Rev-e-la-tions /ˌrevəˈleɪʃənz/ the final book of the New Testament in the Bible in which the story of the end of the world is told

rev-el-ry /ˈrevəlri/ also *revelries pl.* — *n* [U] wild noisy dancing, eating, drinking, etc.; revelling

re-venge¹ /rɪˈvendʒ/ *n* [U (for, on)] punishment given to someone in return for harm done to oneself: *We bombed their cities in revenge for their attacks on ours.* | *We took revenge on them by bombing their cities.* | *a revenge attack* | *After I'd beaten him at chess I gave him a chance to get his revenge.* (=by beating me) — *~ful adj*

revenge² *v* [T] **1** to do something in revenge for (harm done to someone, esp. to oneself): *to revenge a defeat/an injustice* **2** *revenge oneself on* to take revenge on (a person or group)

rev-e-nue /ˈrevɪnjuː/ || -nuː/ also *revenues pl.* — *n* [U] income, esp. that which the government receives as tax: *The government was short of money because of falling oil revenues.* —see also INLAND REVENUE, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

re-ver-be-rate /rɪˈvɜːbəreɪt/ || -ɜːr-/ *v* [I] (of sound) to be thrown back again and again: *ECHO*² repeatedly: *The thunder reverberated across the valley.* | (fig.) *The shocking news reverberated round the world.* —compare RE-SOUND —*~rant adj*

re-ver-be-ra-tion /rɪˈvɜːbəˈreɪʃən/ || -ɜːr-/ *n* [C usu. pl.;U] (a) sound heard again and again: *The reverberation(s) of the shot died away slowly.*

re-vere /rɪˈvɪə/ *v* [T] *fml* to give great respect and admiration to; regard with reverence: *to revere the memory of a great leader* | *a much revered institution*

Revere, Paul (1735–1818) an American HERO who is known for his ride to warn the people of Massachusetts that British soldiers were coming, during the AMERICAN REVOLUTION. This is the subject of a poem by Longfellow.

rev-e-rence¹ /ˈrevərəns/ *n* **1** [U (for)] *fml* great respect and admiration mixed with love: *The old queen was held in great reverence.* **2** [C] old use, humor, or *IrE* (used when speaking to or of a priest): *Will you take a glass of sherry, your reverence?*

reverence² *v* [T] *fml* rare to revere

rev-e-rend /ˈrevərənd/ *adj* [A] *fml* being a priest: *A reverend gentleman is here to see you, sir!*

Reverend *n* (a title of respect for) a Christian priest: *the Reverend Donald Jones* | *When will the new church be finished, Reverend?*

Reverend Moth-er /ˌrɛvərənt ˈmʌðə/ *n* (a title of respect for) the MOTHER SUPERIOR of a CONVENT

rev-e-rent /ˈrevərənt/ *adj* showing a feeling of reverence: *They all maintained a reverent silence.* —opposite *irreverent* —*~ly adv*

rev-e-ren-tial /ˌrevəˈrenʃəl/ *adj fml* respectful; expressing reverence: *a reverential bow of the head* —*~ly adv*

rev-e-rie /ˈrevəri/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (a state of) pleasant thoughts and dreams while awake; DAYDREAM: *She fell into a reverie about the past.* | *He was sunk in reverie and did not hear me.*

re-vers /rɪˈvɪə/ *n* -vers /ˈvɪəz/ || ˈvɪəz/ [usu. pl.] a part of a coat or dress turned back at the neck to show the inside, which may be a different colour from the rest —compare LAPEL

re-vers-al /rɪˈvɜːsəl/ || -ɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a case of) being reversed: *In a complete reversal of his previous decision, he gave permission for the project to go ahead.* **2** [C] a defeat or piece of bad luck: *They were finally successful in spite of a number of reversals.* | *We experienced a reversal of fortune in the second half of the game.*

re-verse¹ /rɪˈvɜːs/ || -ɜːrs/ *adj* [A] opposite to the usual or former, esp. in position or direction: *Please read the names on this list in reverse order.* (=from the end to the beginning) | *the reverse side* (=back) of the cloth

reverse² *v* **1** [I;T] to go or cause (a vehicle) to go backwards: *The car reversed through the gate.* | *I reversed (the car) through the gate.* **2** [T] to change round (usual order or positions): *They reversed the normal order of the ceremony and had the prayers at the beginning.* **3** [T] to change (e.g. a decision or judgment) to the opposite: *The appeal court reversed the original verdict and set the prisoner free.* | *The company's profits have been steadily falling, and his job is to reverse this trend.* **4** [T] to turn (something) over, so as to show the back: *She reversed the sheet of paper.* **5** *reverse the charges BrE* || also *call collect AmE* —to make a telephone call to be paid for by the person receiving it —**versible** *adj*: *This coat is reversible; you can wear it inside out.* —**versibility** /rɪˈvɜːsəbɪlɪti/ || rɪˈvɜːr-/ *n* [U]

reverse³ *n* **1** [the (of)] the opposite; the other way round: *He did the reverse of what we expected: instead of being angry, he bought us a drink.* | “Are you pleased?” “Quite the reverse, I'm very disappointed.” **2** [U] also *reverse gear* /ˌrɪˈvɜːs ˈɡɪər/ —the position of the controls that causes backward movement, esp. in a car: *Put the car into reverse.* **3** [C] *fml* a defeat or change to a worse condition; SETBACK: *The defeat of these proposals was a serious reverse for the President.* | *After several reverses the enemy was forced to retreat.* **4** [the] the side of a coin that does not show a person's head: *The British ten-pence piece has a lion on the reverse.* —opposite **obverse**; see also HEADS, TAILS

reverse di-scrim-i-na-tion /ˌrɪˈvɜːs dɪˈskrɪmɪˈneɪʃən/ *n* [U] the act or idea of treating a usu. favoured group in an unfair way in order to give advantage to a group which is usu. treated unfairly: *Bakke claimed that he was a victim of reverse discrimination because he, a white man, was denied entry to medical school so that the school could admit more black people.* —compare POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION

reversing light /ˌrɪˈvɜːsɪŋ ˈlaɪt/ || also *back-up light AmE* —*n* a light on the back of a car which comes on when the car is going backwards

re-ver-sion /rɪˈvɜːʃən/ || rɪˈvɜːrɪʒən/ *n* [S;U+to] *fml* **1** a return to a former (usu. undesirable) condition or habit: *the danger of a reversion to anarchy in the region* **2** law the reverting of property to an owner

re-vert /rɪˈvɜːt/ || -ɜːrt/ *v*

revert to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to go back to (a former, usu. undesirable condition or habit): *After the settlers left, the area soon reverted to desert.* | *We thought he was a reformed character, but he soon reverted to type and started stealing again.* [+v-ing] *He's stopped taking drugs now, but he may revert to taking them again.* **2** to talk about or consider again; go back to (a former subject of conversation): *I'd like to revert to your earlier point about our export trade.* **3** law (esp. of land) to become the property of (a former owner) again: *When he dies his land will revert to the state.*

re-vet-ment /rɪˈvetmənt/ *n* tech a surface of stone or other building material added for strength to a wall that holds back loose earth, water, etc.

re-view¹ /rɪˈvjuː/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) reviewing (REVIEW² (1)): *an annual review of the department's expenditure* | *The state medical service has been/come very much under review recently.* | *All prices are subject to review.* (=may

be changed) **2 a** [C] a magazine or newspaper article that gives a judgment on a new book, play, television show, etc.: *I hope your new book gets good/favourable reviews.* **b** [U] the writing of these articles: *A review copy of a book is one that is sent to a magazine for review/for review purposes.* **3** [C] an official show of the armed forces in the presence of a king, president, officer of high-rank, etc.: *a naval review* **4** [C] a REVUE

review² *v* **1** [T] to consider and judge carefully (an event or situation): *The committee is reviewing its decision.* | *The airport authorities have promised to review their security arrangements.* **2** [I;T] to write a REVIEW¹ (2) of (a play, book, etc.): *The play was very well reviewed.* (=was praised by the reviewers) | *Susan has been doing some reviewing for "The Times".* **3** [T] to hold a REVIEW¹ (3) of (armed forces) **4** [I;T] AmE for REVISE (3)

re-view-er /rɪ'vjuːə/ *n* a person who writes REVIEWS¹ (2)

re-vile /rɪ'vaɪl/ *v* [T] *fml* to express hatred of; speak very strongly and angrily to or about: *Their much reviled system in fact works far better than many highly praised ones elsewhere.* —**viler** *n*

re-vise /rɪ'vaɪz/ *v* **1** [T] to change (opinions, intentions, etc.) because of new information or more thought: *I can see I'll have to revise my ideas about Tom — he's really quite clever after all.* | *Our original forecast of this year's profits has now been revised upwards.* (=we now think profits will be higher) **2** [T] to read through (a piece of writing) carefully, making improvements and putting mistakes right: *He revised the manuscript of his book before sending it to the publisher.* **3** [I (for);T] BrE||**review** AmE— to study again (lessons or a subject already learnt), usu. before an examination: *I'm revising my history notes for the exam on Monday.* —**reviser** *n*

Revised Standard Version /ˌrɪˌvɪstəd stændəd vɜːʃən/ also RSV— *n* a revision of the Bible prepared by American SCHOLARS which came out in 1952

Revised Version /ˌrɪˌvɪstəd vɜːʃən/ [the] a British revision of the Authorized Version of the Bible printed in 1881 and 1885

re-vi-sion /rɪ'vɪʒən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) revising something, esp. a piece of writing: *That book needs a lot of revision/has already had three revisions.* **2** [C] a piece of writing that has been revised **3** [U (for)] BrE the work of studying again lessons already learnt: *She did some revision for the exam.*

re-vi-sion-is-m /rɪ'vɪʒənɪzəm/ *n* [U] *often derog* the questioning of the main beliefs of an already existing political system, esp. a Marxist one —**ist** *adj, n*

re-vi-tal-ize also **-ise** BrE /rɪː'vaɪtəl-aɪz/ *v* [T] to put new strength or power into: *The discovery of vast new coal-fields has revitalized our mining industry.* —compare DEVITALIZE —**-ization** /rɪː'vaɪtəl-aɪ'zeɪʃən/||-təleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re-vi-val /rɪ'vaɪvəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] a case of something being brought back into use or existence; renewal: *There has been a/some revival of interest in this composer's music.* | *a revival in consumer demand after a period of slow business* **2** [C] a performance of an old play after many years: *She starred in a revival of "West Side Story".* **3** [C] also **revival meeting** /ˌrɪˌvɪvəl miːtɪŋ/ — a public religious meeting, with music, famous speakers, etc., intended to waken and increase people's interest in Christianity

re-vi-val-ist /rɪ'vaɪvəlɪst/ *n* a person who holds revival meetings

revival tent /ˌrɪˌvɪvəl tɛnt/ *n* AmE a large tent which is moved from place to place for the holding of REVIVALS (3): *a revival tent preacher*

re-vive /rɪ'vaɪv/ *v* **1** [I;T] to become or make conscious or healthy again: *That rose will revive if you water it.* | *He felt rather faint but the fresh air soon revived him.* **2** [I;T] to come or bring back into use or existence: *Interest in this composer's music has revived recently.* | *It's nice that these old customs are being revived.* | *The company are going to revive an old musical for their next production.* | *Seeing her old schoolfriend again revived memories of her childhood.*

re-viv-i-fy /rɪː'vɪvɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to give new life and health to

rev-o-ca-tion /ˌrevə'keɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) revoking (REVOKE (1)): *the revocation of an order*

re-voke /rɪ'vəʊk/ *v* **1** [T] to put an end to (a law, decision, permission, etc.); CANCEL: *The government has revoked its permission for them to enter the country.* —see also IR-

REVOCABLE **2** [I] (in card games such as BRIDGE) to break the rules by playing a card of the wrong kind (SUIT) when one has a card of the right kind

re-volt¹ /rɪ'vɔʊlt/ *v* **1** [I (against)] (esp. of a large number of people) to take strong and often violent action against those in power, usu. with the aim of taking power from them; REBEL: *The people revolted against the military government.* **2** [I+prep;T] to (cause to) feel sick and shocked; (cause to) turn away with violent dislike: *We were revolted by their cruelty.* | *All civilized people will revolt at/from/against this terrible crime.* —see also REVULSION

revolt² *n* **1** [C;U (against)] (an example of) the act of revolting (REVOLT¹ (1)): *They seized power in a revolt.* | *The whole nation is in (a state of) revolt against the tyrannical regime.* | (fig.) *The president faces a revolt among his own supporters in the Senate if he persists with this plan.* (=they will refuse to support him) **2** [(in) U] REVULSION

re-volt-ing /rɪ'vɔʊltɪŋ/ *adj* extremely unpleasant; DISGUSTING: *a revolting smell of bad eggs* | *Their sexual practices were revolting to her.* —**~ly** *adv*: *Your socks are revoltingly dirty.*

rev-o-lu-tion /ˌrevə'luzɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a time of) great, usu. sudden, social and political change, esp. the changing of a ruler and/or political system by force: *the French revolution* | *The constant oppression of the workers led inevitably to strife and revolution.* —see also AMERICAN REVOLUTION, COUNTER-REVOLUTION, CULTURAL REVOLUTION, FRENCH REVOLUTION, INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, PALACE REVOLUTION, RUSSIAN REVOLUTION **2** [C (in)] a complete change in ways of thinking, methods of working, etc.: *The invention of air travel caused a revolution in our way of living.* | *the computer revolution* **3** [C;U (round)] (one complete) circular movement round a fixed point: *the revolution of the moon round the Earth* | *The Earth makes one revolution round the sun each year.* **4** [C] also *rev infml*— (in a machine) one complete circular movement on a central point, e.g. of a wheel: *a speed of 100 revolutions per minute* —see also REVOLVE (1)

rev-o-lu-tion-a-ry¹ /ˌrevə'luzɪʃənəri/||-ʃənəri/ *adj* **1** [A] connected with or being a REVOLUTION (1): *a revolutionary leader* | *He suffered for his revolutionary principles.* **2** *usu. apprec* completely new and different: *a revolutionary new way of growing rice*

revolutionary² *n* a person who joins in or supports a REVOLUTION (1): *The revolutionaries are attacking the palace.*

Revolutionary War /ˌrɪˌvɒljənəri wɔː/ [the] another name for the AMERICAN REVOLUTION

rev-o-lu-tion-ize also **-ise** BrE /ˌrevə'luzɪʃənaɪz/ *v* [T] to cause a complete change in; cause a REVOLUTION (2) in: *The discovery of the new drug has revolutionized the treatment of many diseases.*

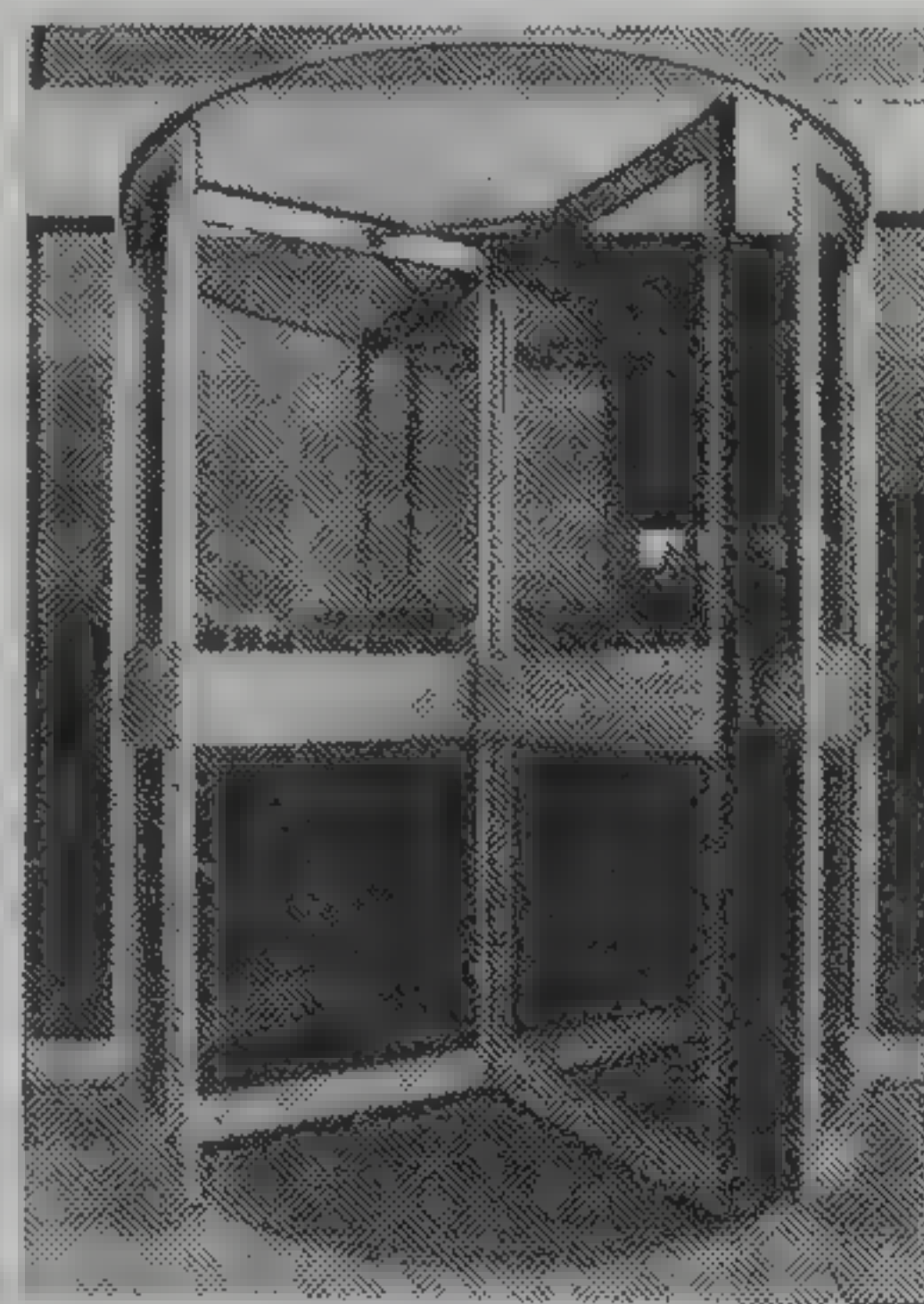
re-volve /rɪ'vɒlv/||rɪ'vaɪlv/ *v* **1** [I;T (on)] to (cause to) spin round on a central point: *The Earth revolves on its own axis once every 24 hours.* | *The hotel has revolving doors.* **2** [I+adv/prep;T] *fml* rare to consider or be considered carefully: *He revolved the main points in his mind.* | *All sorts of mad ideas revolved in/around my mind.*

revolve around sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] **1** [not in progressive forms] to have as a centre or main subject: *A baby's life revolves mainly around its mother.* | *He thinks the whole world revolves around him.* (=He thinks he is more important than anyone/anything else.) **2** *esp. AmE for REVOLVE round* **revolve round/about** sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to move in circles round: *The moon revolves round the Earth.*

re-volv-er /rɪ'vɒlvə/||rɪ'vaɪl-/ *n* a PISTOL (=a small gun) which has a revolving container for bullets, allowing several shots to be fired without reloading —see picture at GUN

revolving door /ˌrɪˌvɒlvɪŋ dɔː/ *n* a door that has four pieces of wood or glass set at RIGHT ANGLES to each other and which

revolving door



move in a circle around a central point. This type of door is usu. used as an entrance to large buildings and not houses and allows people to come in without losing all the heat inside the building.

re-vue, **review** /rɪˈvjuː/ *n* a light theatrical show with short acts, songs, dances, and jokes, esp. about the events and fashions of the present time

re-vul-sion /rɪˈvʌlʃən/ *n* [S;U (against)] (a) feeling of being deeply shocked and revolted (REVOLT¹ (2)): *The scenes of torture produced a feeling of revulsion in most viewers. | They turned away in revulsion.*

re-ward¹ /rɪˈwɔːd/-ɔːrd/ *n* 1 [C;U] (something gained or received as) a return for doing something good or valuable: *As a reward for passing her exams, she got a new bike from her parents. | A pension of £3000 a year is not much of a reward for a lifetime's service. | I don't expect anything in reward; I did it because I enjoyed it. | They will expect some reward after working so hard. (=it brings advantages in other ways) 2 [C (for)] an amount of money given to someone who helps the police or brings back lost property: *The police are offering a big reward for information about the robbery.**

reward² *v* [T (for, with)] to give a reward to (someone) or for (an action): *He was generously rewarded. | They rewarded the boy with £5 for bringing back the lost dog. | How can I reward your kindness? | After hours of searching, their patience was rewarded and they found what they were looking for.*

re-ward-ing /rɪˈwɔːdɪŋ/-ɔːr-/ *adj* (of an experience or action) worth doing or having; giving satisfaction, but perhaps not much money: *Nursing can be a very rewarding career.*

re-wind¹ /rɪˈwaɪnd/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) wind backwards or in an opposite direction: *Rewind the tape and play that song again. | When it reaches the end the tape will rewind automatically.*

re-wind² /rɪˈwaɪnd/ *n* 1 an act of rewinding: *These tapes tend to fall apart after a dozen rewinds. 2 also rewind but-ton /ˈbʊtən/— a button on a tape player or computer that causes a tape to rewind: *Push the rewind till the counter is back at zero.**

re-wire /rɪˈwaɪər/ *v* [T] to put new electric wires into (a building)

re-word /rɪˈwɔːd/-wɔːrd/ *v* [T] to say or write again in different words: *This section of the contract should be reworded to make its meaning clearer.*

re-work /rɪˈwɜːk/-wɜːrk/ *v* [T] to put (music, writing, etc.) into a new and different form (in order to use again): *a reworking of familiar ideas*

re-write /rɪˈraɪt/ *v* -wrote /ˈrəʊt/, -written /ˈrɪtn/ [T] to write again in a different, esp. more suitable way: *He had to rewrite the article when the lawyers pointed out the danger of libel. —rewrite /ˈrɪːraɪt/ n : a modern rewrite of an old story*

Rex /reks/ *n* Lat 1 [after *n*] (the title used in official writing after the name of a ruling British king): *Georgius Rex 2 law* (used, when a king is ruling, in titles of British law cases) the governing power of the state: *in the action Rex v Jones (=the state against Jones) —compare REGINA*

Reye's syn-drome /ˈraɪz ˌsɪndrəʊm, ˈreɪz-/ *n* [U] med a rare and dangerous illness which occurs usu. in children, and often after they have taken ASPIRIN. For this reason it is now not recommended (RECOMMEND) that children under 12 be given aspirin as a painkiller.

Rey-kja-vik /ˈreɪkjəvɪk/ the capital city and main port of Iceland. It is the centre of the COD-fishing industry.

Rey-nard the Fox /ˌrenəd ðə ˈfɒks; ˌreɪ-||-aɪrd ðə ˈfɒks/ BrE a fox in various old stories, which represents a man who, while breaking certain of society's rules, always escapes punishment by his cleverness

Rey-nolds /ˈrenəldz/, **Burt** /bɜːt||bɜːrt/ (1936–) an American film actor known for adventure films and comedies (COMEDY) such as *Deliverance*, *City Heat*, and *Smokey and the Bandit*

Reynolds, Sir Joshua (1723–92) an English painter who became the first president of the ROYAL ACADEMY. He is famous esp. for his PORTRAITS.

RFD /ˌɑːr ef ˈdiː/ *n* [U] AmE rural free delivery; used for

postal addresses outside towns: *Our address is R.F.D.3, Mayberry, Arkansas.*

rhap-so-dize also **-dise** BrE /ˈræpsədaɪz/ *v* [I (about, over)] to express eager and excited approval: *Mother rhapsodized about/over your beautiful kitchen.*

rhap-so-dy /ˈræpsədi/ *n* 1 [(about, over)] an expression of eager and excited approval: *They all went into (=expressed) rhapsodies over the beauty of the scenery. 2 a dreamy piece of music written as if made up as one plays it, not in any regular form —dic /ræpˈsɒdɪk||-ˈsɑː-/ adj : a rhapsodic passage in the slow movement of the symphony*

rhea /ˈriə, ˈriːə/ *n* a large South American bird like the OSTRICH but smaller

rheo-stat /ˈriəstæt/ *n* an instrument that controls the loudness of radio sound or the brightness of electric light, by limiting the flow of electric current

rhe-sus /ˈrɪsəs/ also **rhesus mon-key** /ˈrɪs ˌmɒni/ *n* a small short-tailed pale brown North Indian monkey, often used in scientific tests

Rhesus fac-tor /ˈrɪs ˌfæktər/ also **Rh factor**— [the] tech a substance whose presence (Rhesus positive) or absence (Rhesus negative) in the red blood cells may have dangerous effects when a person receives the blood of another person during medical treatment

rhet-o-ric /ˈretərɪk/ *n* [U] 1 the art of speaking or writing in a way that is likely to persuade or influence people 2 the language used, esp. by politicians, in doing this: *Despite their tough anti-American rhetoric, the government is privately trying to maintain good relations with the US. 3 derog speech or writing that sounds fine and important, but is really insincere or without meaning*

rhe-tor-i-cal /rɪˈtɒrɪkəl/-ˈtɔː-, -ˈtɑː-/ *adj* 1 (of a question) asked only to gain an effect, and not expecting any answer: *a rhetorical question, such as "Who knows how long the war will last?" 2 of, connected with, or showing rhetoric: The speaker showed great rhetorical skill. —~ly /kli/ adv : I was only asking rhetorically; I didn't really expect an answer.*

rhet-o-ri-cian /ˌretəˈrɪʃən/ *n* fml a person trained and ~skilled in RHETORIC (1)

rheu-mat-ic /ruːˈmætɪk/ *adj* 1 of or connected with RHEUMATISM: *a rheumatic condition of the joints 2 suffering from rheumatism: a rheumatic old woman who can't walk very fast —see also RHEUMATICS*

rheumatic fe-ver /ˌrɪː ˈfɛvər/ *n* [U] a serious infectious disease, esp. in children, with fever, swelling of the joints, and possible damage to the heart

rheu-mat-ick-y /ruːˈmætɪki/ *adj* infml for RHEUMATIC (2)

rheu-mat-ics /ruːˈmætɪks/ *n* [P] infml, esp. BrE rheumatism

rheu-ma-tis-m /ˈruːmətɪzəm/ *n* [U] a disease causing pain and stiffness in the joints or muscles of the body

rheu-ma-toid /ˈruːmətɔɪd/ *adj* tech of rheumatism or a long-continuing disease (rheumatoid arthritis) causing pain and stiffness in the joints of the legs and arms and often making them lose their proper shape

Rh fac-tor /ˌɑːr ˈeɪtʃ ˌfæktər/ *n* the RHESUS FACTOR

Rhine /raɪn/ [the] the longest river in W Europe, which is used to carry coal and other products used in industry

rhine-stone /ˈraɪnstəʊn/ *n* [C;U] a shining colourless jewel made from glass or a transparent rock and intended to look like a diamond

Rhine wine /ˌrɪː ˈwaɪn/ *n* [C;U] any of several white wines produced in the Rhine valley

rhi-no-ce-ros /raɪˈnɒsərəs||-ˈnɑː-/ also **rhi-no** /ˈraɪnəʊ/ infml— *n* rhinoceros or rhinoceroses a large heavy thick-skinned animal of Africa or Asia, with either one or two horns on its nose

rhi-no-plas-ty /ˈraɪnəʊˌplæsti/ *n* [U] plastic SURGERY of the nose, performed to improve the shape of a person's nose, usu. for reasons of appearance rather than any medical reason —see also NOSE JOB —plastic *adj*

rhi-zome /ˈraɪzəʊm/ *n* tech the thick stem of some plants

rhinoceros



such as the **IRIS**, which lies flat along the ground with roots and leaves growing from it

Rhode Is-land /'rəʊd ,aɪlənd/ [rəʊd 'aɪlənd/ *written abbrev.* **RI** the smallest of the US states, in New England. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (**COLONY**). —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Rhode Island Red /,rəʊ . ɪ . ˌ ɪ . ˌ ɪ . ˌ / *n* a type of American hen which has dark red-brown feathers

Rhodes /rəʊdz/ a large Greek island near the coast of Turkey. This island was known for one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the **Colossus of Rhodes**, which was destroyed by an **EARTHQUAKE** in about 224 BC.

Rhodes, Ce-cil /'sesɪl/ (1853–1902) a South African politician who was born in Britain and was **PRIME MINISTER** of the Cape Colony in 1890–96. He was responsible for the formation of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

Rhodes, Zan-dra /'zɑːndrə/ (1940–) an English fashion **DESIGNER** who is known for her expensive and strange dresses

Rho-de-si-a /rəʊ'dɪzɪə/ -3ə/ a former name for Zimbabwe —**sian** *n, adj*

Rhodes Schol-ar-ship /,rəʊ . ˌ ɪ . ˌ ɪ . ˌ / *n* a **SCHOLARSHIP** available to students from America, the British **COMMONWEALTH**, and Germany to allow them to study at Oxford University — **Rhodes scholar** *n*

rho-do-den-dron /,rəʊdə'dendron/ *n* a large bush which has large bright flowers and which keeps its leaves in winter

rhomboid¹ /'rɒmbɔɪd/ [rɑːm-/ *n tech* (in **GEOMETRY**) a four-sided shape whose opposite sides are equal; **PARALLELOGRAM** —see picture at **QUADRILATERAL**

rhomboid² also **rhomboid-al** /rɒm'bɔɪd/ [rɑːm-/ *adj [no comp.] tech* in the shape of a rhombus

rhombus /'rɒmbəs/ [rɑːm-/ *n tech* (in **GEOMETRY**) a shape with four equal straight sides, esp. one that is not square —see picture at **QUADRILATERAL**

Rhon-dda /'rɒndə/ [rɑː-/ a **DISTRICT** in Wales, sometimes called the **Rhondda valley**, and mainly known for coalmining, although this is no longer so important in the area

Rhône /rəʊn/ an important river in Europe, used for **HYDROELECTRIC** power in France

rhu-barb /'ruːbɑːb/ -aɪrb/ *n* **1** [U] a broad-leaved garden plant whose thick red juicy stems are eaten, often having been stewed (**STEW**¹ (1)) and served with **CUSTARD** **2** [U] *infml* the sound made by actors to suggest many people talking at the same time **3** [C] *AmE old fash* a noisy argument

rhyme¹ /raɪm/ *n* **1** [C] a short and not serious piece of writing, using words that rhyme: *He made up funny rhymes to amuse the children.* —see also **NURSERY RHYME** **2** [C (for)] a word that rhymes with another: “Fold” and “cold” are rhymes. | *I can't find a rhyme for “donkey”.* **3** [U] (the use of) words that rhyme at the ends of the lines in poetry: *Shakespeare sometimes wrote in rhyme.* **4 rhyme or reason** [*usu. in negatives*] (any) sense or meaning: *There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason in his demands — is he mad?*

rhyme² *v [not in progressive forms]* **1** [I (with)] (of words or lines of poetry) to end with the same sound, including a vowel: “House” rhymes with “mouse”. | “School” and “fool” rhyme. | *The last two lines of this poem don't rhyme properly.* **2** [T (with)] to put together (words or one word with another) ending with the same sound, including a vowel: *You can't rhyme “duty” with “beauty” but you can't rhyme “box” and “backs”.* | *a rhyming couplet* (=two lines of poetry that rhyme)

rhyme-ster /'raɪmstə/ *n old use derog* a writer of poems, esp. bad ones

rhyming slang /,rɪ . ɪ . ˌ / *n* [U] (the use, esp. by some people from London (**COCKNEYS**), of) words and phrases that rhyme with those which are really meant: “Plates of meat” is rhyming slang for “feet”.

rhyth-m /'rɪðəm/ *n* [C;U] (a) regular repeated pattern of sounds or movements: *This music is written in a rhythm of three beats to a bar.* | *the rhythm of his heartbeats* | *the exciting rhythms of African drum music* | *the rhythm section of a band* (=drums and other instruments that provide a strong beat) | (fig.) *the rhythm of the seasons* —compare **METRE**²; see also **BIORHYTHMS**

rhythm and blues /,rɪ . ɪ . ˌ / also **R and B**— *n* [U] a type of popular music which is a mixture of **BLUES** and **JAZZ** and often uses amplified (**AMPLIFY**) instruments to make a powerful beat. It was first developed by black musicians, who greatly influenced many **ROCK** musicians.

rhyth-mic /'rɪðmɪk/ also **rhyth-mi-cal** /-kəl/— *adj* having rhythm: *the rhythmic beating of one's heart* —see also **EU-RHYTHMICS** — **ally** /kli/ *adv*

rhythmic gym-nas-tics /,rɪ . ɪ . ˌ / *n* [U] a kind of **GYMNASTICS** in which people perform with long **RIBBONS**, balls, and **HOOPS** (ring-like objects) to music

rhythm meth-od /'rɪ . ɪ . ˌ / *n [the]* a method of **BIRTH CONTROL** which depends on having sex only at a time when the woman is not likely to **CONCEIVE**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** This is a method commonly used by people such as **ROMAN CATHOLICS** who believe that any other form of birth control is wrong, because they think that the purpose of sex is to have children and that it is wrong to do anything to interfere with this process. ◀

RI /,aɪr 'aɪ/ **1 abbrev. for:** **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION** **2 writ-**
ten abbrev. for: **RHODE ISLAND**

ri-al /rɪ'aɪl/ [rɪ'ɔɪl, -'aɪl/ *n* a **RIYAL**

rib¹ /rɪb/ *n* **1** any of the 12 pairs of bones running round the chest of a person or animal, from the **SPINE** to where they join at the front: *He suffered three cracked ribs in the accident.* | *We're having roast ribs of beef for dinner.* —see picture at **SKELETON**

► **CULTURAL NOTE** According to the Bible, God made Eve, the first woman, from one of the ribs of Adam, the first man. ◀

2 a curved piece of wood, metal, etc. used for forming or strengthening a frame: *the ribs of a boat/an umbrella* **3** one of a group of long thin raised lines in a pattern: *the ribs of a leaf* **4 dig/poke someone in the ribs** to push someone with a finger or the elbow so as to attract attention

rib² *v -bb-* [T] *infml* to make fun of in a friendly way; laugh at: *All the boys ribbed him for keeping a pet pig.*

rib-ald /'rɪbəlɪd/ *adj fml* rudely humorous in a loud, insensitive, and disrespectful way: *ribald jokes* | *the ribald laughter of the drunken men* | *a crowd of ribald soldiers*

rib-ald-ry /'rɪbəlɪdri/ *n* [U] *fml* ribald language or jokes: *We've had enough of this ribaldry — this is a serious occasion.*

ribbed /rɪbd/ *adj* having a pattern of long thin raised lines: *a ribbed fabric* | *ribbed socks*

Rib-ben-trop /'rɪbəntrop/ -trɔːp/, **Jo-a-chim von** /'jəʊəkɪm vɒn/ -vɔːn/ (1893–1946) a German leader in the **NAZI PARTY** who advised Hitler on foreign affairs and was German **AMBASSADOR** to Britain from 1936–38. He was tried and hanged at Nuremberg as a war criminal.

rib-bing /'rɪbɪŋ/ *n* [U] a pattern of long thin raised lines in knitting (**KNIT**): *the ribbing round the tops of his socks*

rib-bon /'rɪbən/ also **rib-and** /'rɪbənd/ *old use— n* **1** [C;U] (a piece of) silk or other material woven in a long narrow band and used for tying things, for decoration, etc.: *She wore red ribbons in her hair.* | *I must get some more typewriter ribbon.* **2** [C] a piece of ribbon in a special colour or pattern, worn to show that one has received a particular military honour **3** [C] a long irregular narrow band; **STRIP**: *The old torn curtains hung in ribbons.* | *The cat has torn my scarf to ribbons.* | *His coat was in ribbons.* (=very badly torn) | (fig.) *a ribbon of mist along the river bank*

ribbon de-vel-op-ment /'rɪ . ɪ . ˌ / *n* [U] *usu. derog* (the practice of building) long lines of houses along the sides of main roads leading out of a city

rib cage /'rɪ . ɪ / *n* the arrangement of **RIBS** in the body that encloses and protects the lungs —see picture at **RESPIRATORY**

Ri-be-na /raɪ'biːnə/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a drink made from **BLACK-CURRENTS** and sugar which is very popular in Britain with young children, mixed with cold or hot water

ri-bo-fla-vin /,raɪbəʊ'fleɪvɪn/ [raɪbə-/ *n* [U] *tech* a substance (**VITAMIN B2**) that exists naturally in meat, milk, and certain vegetables, and is important for human health

rice /raɪs/ *n* [U] **1** a plant grown in wet warm places for its seed **2** the seed of this plant, which is cooked and eaten everywhere in the world: *a plate of boiled rice* |

chicken and fried rice — see also BROWN RICE, WILD RICE, and see picture at CEREAL

Rice, An-ne-ka /'ænɪkə/ (1958–) a woman, popular on British television, who became known through the programme *Treasure Hunt* in which she had to do a lot of running and travelling by HELICOPTER to try to find hidden TREASURE

Rice-Da-vies /,ɪˈ-/, **Mandy** (1944–) an English model known for her involvement in the Profumo SCANDAL in 1963 because of her friendship with Christine Keeler — see PROFUMO SCANDAL

Rice Kris-pies, rice crispies /,raɪs 'krɪspɪz/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a breakfast food made from rice and usu. eaten with milk and sugar. In advertising, Rice Krispies are sold with the phrase “snap, crackle, and pop” because this is supposed to describe the noise they make when you pour milk onto them.

rice pad-dy /ɪˈ-/, *n* a PADDY¹

rice pa-per /ɪˈ-/, *n* [U] **1** a thin paper made esp. in China and used by ARTISTS there **2** a special form of this that can be eaten, and is used in cooking, esp. on the bottom of certain BISCUITS to stop them sticking to the tin while they cook

rice pud-ding /ɪˈ-/, *n* [U] a sweet dish made of rice, milk, and sugar which is cooked for a long time in an OVEN. In Britain it is considered to be TRADITIONAL British food, but is not very common now.

rich /rɪtʃ/ *adj* **1** [also *n*, (the)P] wealthy; possessing a lot of money or other valuable goods or property: *a rich banker* | *Times are hard for rich and poor alike.* | *The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.* **2** [F+in] also -rich— possessing or containing a lot of the stated thing: *Sardines are rich in oil.* | *The canal had been receiving nitrogen-rich run off from agricultural lands for years.* | *a city rich in ancient buildings* **3** expensive, valuable, and beautiful: *The walls were hung with rich silks.* **4** (of food) containing a lot of cream, sugar, eggs, etc.: *a very rich Christmas cake* **5** (of land) good for growing plants in; FERTILE: *rich soil* | (fig.) *This subject offers a rich field for advanced study.* **6** (of a sound or colour) deep, strong, and beautiful: *the rich notes of the church organ* | *a rich dark red* **7** [F] *infml* amusing but often rather annoying: “*They’ve made John the captain.*” “*That’s rich! Even I can play football better than him!*” —opposite **poor** (for 1,5) **8** *for richer for poorer* *quote* part of the Christian marriage service, in which the people getting married promise to love each other whether they are rich or poor — see also MARRIAGE — ~ness *n* [U]: *the richness of the furnishings/the soil/the food*

Rich-ard /'rɪtʃəd-ərd/, **Cliff** (1940–) an English popular music singer who has been making popular music since the 1950s, originally with his group The Shadows. His hit songs include *Living Doll*, *Move It*, and *We Don’t Talk Anymore*. He is well known for his youthful appearance and his Christian faith.

Cliff Richard



Richard I /,rɪtʃəd ðə 'fɜːst-ərd ðə 'fɜːrst/ (1157–99) see RICHARD THE LIONHEART

Richard II /,rɪtʃəd ðə 'sekənd-ərd-/ **1** (1367–1400) the king of England from 1377 to 1399, who had many of his opponents killed so that he had complete power. He was removed by PARLIAMENT and died mysteriously after being imprisoned in 1399. **2** a play by William Shakespeare about the life of Richard II

Richard III /,rɪtʃəd ðə 'θɜːd-ərd ðə 'θɜːrd/ **1** (1452–85) the king of England from 1483 to 1485 thought to have ordered the killing of his NEPHEWS. He was killed at the battle of Bosworth Field after losing his horse. **2** a play by William Shakespeare about the life of Richard III. It includes the line: *A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!*, said by Richard III when he has lost his horse during the battle of Bosworth Field.

Rich-ards /'rɪtʃədz-ərdz/, **Viv** /vɪv/ (1952–) a West Indian CRICKETER

Richard Shops /ɪˈ-/, (the name of) a group of shops found in large towns in Britain which sell women’s fashions

Rich-ard-son /'rɪtʃədsən-ərd-/ , **Sir Ralph** /rælf/ (1902–83) an English actor known for his Shakespearean ROLES on stage, as well as films such as *Our Man in Havana* and *O Lucky Man!*

Richardson, Sam-u-el /'sæmjʊəl/ (1689–1761) an English writer who influenced the development of the modern NOVEL, with such books as *Pamela* and *Clarissa*, written in the form of letters

Richard the Lionheart /ɪˈ- - '.../ also **Richard Coeur de Li-on** /- 'kɜː də 'liːən- , kɜːr də 'laɪən-/ (1157–99) Richard I, the King of England from 1189 to 1199, who spent a long time fighting in the CRUSADES (=holy wars) and who was popular for his gentlemanly behaviour and his bravery

Riche-lieu /'rɪːʃljɜː/ 'rɪːʃəlɜː/, **Cardinal** (1585–1642) a French CARDINAL who was very powerful and had a lot of influence with the French King Louis XIII. He is remembered esp. for destroying the political power of the Huguenots in France.

rich-es /'rɪtʃɪz/ *n* [P] *esp. lit* wealth: *His success had brought him vast riches.*

rich-ly /'rɪtʃli/ *adv* **1** splendidly; in a large quantity: *The queen’s dress was richly decorated with jewels.* **2** fully: *They got the punishment they so richly deserved.*

Rich-mond /'rɪtʃmænd/ **1** a market town in N Yorkshire, England **2** the capital city of Virginia, in the East of the US, known for producing tobacco. It was the capital of the CONFEDERACY during the American CIVIL WAR. **3** a COUNTY of New York City which includes Staten Island

Richmond-upon-Thames /ɪˈ- - ' -/ a BOROUGH of SW Greater London, England, containing Kew Gardens and Hampton Court Palace

Rich Tea /ɪˈ- / the name of a plain sweet BISCUIT made by McVities

Rich-ter scale /'rɪktə ,skeɪl, 'rɪx-||-tər-/ [*the*] a scale used to measure the strength of EARTHQUAKES; the range is from one to ten, ten being the strongest

Richt-ho-fen /'rɪkthəʊfən, 'rɪxt-/, **Baron von** /'bærən vɒn -|| -vɑːn/ (1892–1918) a German aircraft pilot, known as the **Red Baron**. He shot down 80 aircraft in the First World War before being killed in action.

rick¹ /rɪk/ *n* a large pile of wheat stems or dried grass that stands out in the open air until it is needed: *a hay rick*

rick² *v* [T] *esp. BrE* to twist (a joint or part of the body) slightly: *I’ve ricked my back/my ankle.*

rick-ets /'rɪkɪts/ *n* [U] a children’s disease caused by lack of the VITAMIN D provided by sunshine, butter, fresh milk, etc., which makes the bones become soft and bent

rick-et-y /'rɪkɪti/ *adj infml* weakly joined and likely to break; unsteady: *rickety old stairs* | *a rickety chair*

rick-rack /'rɪkræk/ *n* [U] *AmE* a narrow piece of cloth (a RIBBON) in a ZIGZAG shape used to decorate clothing, etc.

rick-shaw /'rɪkʃɔː/ *n* a small two-wheeled vehicle used in parts of East Asia for carrying one or two passengers and powered by a man either pulling or cycling

ric-o-chet¹ /'rɪkəʃeɪ/ *n* **1** a sudden sharp change in the direction of a moving object such as a stone or bullet when it hits a surface at an angle **2** a an object to which this has happened: *She was wounded by a ricochet, not by a direct hit.* **b** the sound made by a ricochet

ricochet² *v* -cheted /feɪd/ or -chatted /ʃetɪd/ [I (off)] to change direction in a ricochet: *The bullet ricocheted off the metal girder.*

ri-cot-ta /rɪ'kɒtə-||- 'kɔː-/ *n* [U] a type of Italian cheese made from sheep’s milk, and often used in PASTA dishes, esp. with SPINACH

rid /rɪd/ *v* **rid** or **ridded**, **rid**, *present participle* **ridding** *rid* sbdy./sthg. of sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to make (esp. a place) free of (something harmful or unwanted): *One day we will manage to rid the world of this terrible disease.* | *You must rid yourself of these old-fashioned ideas.* | *He’s gone, and I’m glad to be rid of him.* **2** **get rid of:** **a** to free oneself from (something unwanted): *I’ve tried all sorts of medicines to get rid of this cold.* **b** to drive, send, throw, or give away or destroy: *How can we get rid of all these flies in the kitchen?* | *He just sat there talking all evening and I couldn’t get rid of him.*

rid-dance /'rɪdəns/ *n infml* good riddance (said rudely

rift /rɪft/ *n* [(between, in)] a crack or narrow opening in a large mass: *The sun appeared through a rift in the clouds.* | (fig.) *I hope we can heal the rift between them — they used to be such good friends.*

rift val·ley /'rɪfˌvæli/ *n* a valley with very steep sides, formed by the cracking and slipping of the Earth's surface

rig¹ /rɪg/ *v* -gg- [T] to provide (a ship) with the necessary ropes, sails, etc.: *a fully-rigged vessel*

rig sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (as, in)] to dress (someone) in special or funny clothes; **DRESS UP** (1,2): *She was rigged out/She rigged herself out in a bright orange uniform.* | *They rigged the little boy out as a sailor.* —see also **RIG-OUT**

rig sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to put together for a short time out of materials easily found: *We can rig up an aerial from these pieces of wire.*

rig² *n* 1 the way a ship's sails and the MASTS that carry them are arranged: *Most modern yachts have a fore and aft rig, but the old galleons were square-rigged.* 2 (*usu. in comb.*) a piece of apparatus used for the stated purpose: *a drilling rig* —see also **OILRIG** 3 *infml* a set of clothes; the way a person is dressed: *He looked rather out of place when he turned up in full ceremonial rig.* —see also **RIG-OUT** 4 *infml, esp. AmE* a large TRUCK, esp. when fully loaded

rig³ *v* -gg- [T] to arrange (an event) dishonestly for one's own advantage: *They complained that the election had been rigged.*

Ri-ga /'rɪgə/ the capital city of Latvia

rig-a-ma-role /'rɪgəməʊl/ *n* RIGMAROLE

rig-a-to-ni /'rɪgə'təʊni/ *n* [P] a type of PASTA in the shape of short RIBBED tubes

Rigg /rɪg/, **Diana** (1938–) an English actress known for her appearances on television in the television SERIES *The Avengers*

rig·ging /'rɪɡɪŋ/ *n* [(the) U] all the ropes, chains, etc., that hold up a ship's sails: *The sailor climbed up the rigging to see if he could sight land.* —see picture at **YACHT**

right¹ /raɪt/ *adj* 1 [A] on, for, or belonging to the side of the body away from the heart: *one's right arm/eye* | *my right shoe* 2 [A] on, by, or in the direction of one's right side: *the right bank of the river* | *Take a right turn at the crossroads.* 3 belonging to, connected with, or supporting the RIGHT² (2) in politics; **RIGHT WING**: *She's very right.* | *a small far-right party* (=with strong **RIGHT WING** views) —opposite left

right² *n* 1 [(the) U] the RIGHT¹ side or direction: *Keep to the right!* | *He doesn't know his left from his right.* | *Take the next turning on/to your right.* (=the next one you come to on your right side) | *The Conservative party is to the right of the Liberals.* 2 [*the+sing./pl. v*] (*often cap.*) political parties or groups, such as the Conservatives in Britain and the Republicans in the US, that have NATIONALISTIC views and are in favour of less state control and more FREE ENTERPRISE and choice. They generally support the employers or those in official positions rather than the workers: *The election results mean that the Right has/have gained control of the Senate.* —see also **RIGHT WING** 3 [C] a blow struck with the right hand: *He got me with a right to the jaw.* —opposite left 4 **be somewhere to the right of Ghengis Khan/Attila the Hun** to have very strong **RIGHT-WING** political opinions

right³ *adj* 1 just, proper, or morally correct; in accordance with accepted ideas of what is good: *I'll try to do whatever is right.* | *It's difficult to know what is the right thing to do in this situation.* | *It's not right to tell lies.* | *It's only right that you should know.* (=You ought to know.) | *I thought it right to tell you.* [+to-v] *You were quite right to report the matter to the police.* 2 [(in)] correct or true; in accordance with the facts: *Is that the right time?* | *He gave the right answer.* | *Would I be right in thinking that you come from Australia?* | *"Is this Piccadilly Circus?" "Yes, that's right."* 3 most suitable; best for a particular purpose: *Are we going in the right direction?* | *I think he's the right person for the job.* | *She's the sort of woman who always says the right things and knows the right* (=socially important) *people.* | *a newspaper with just the right mixture of serious comment and entertaining articles* 4 in a correct, satisfactory, or healthy state, position, etc.: *The wiring is all wrong — you'll have to call an electrician to put it right.* | *That picture isn't quite right — could you straighten it?* | *I'm sorry about all the trou-*

ble I've caused — I'll do my best to put/set things right. | *A week by the sea will soon put you right again.* (=cure you or make you feel better) | *You've got a mild case of food poisoning, but don't worry — you'll be right as rain* (=perfectly healthy) *in a couple of days.* | *Don't pay any attention to what she says — she's not (quite) right in the head/in her right mind.* (=she's mad) 5 [A] *BrE infml* (esp. of something bad) complete; to a great degree: *That man's a right idiot!* 6 **Right you are!** also **Right oh!** — *BrE infml* yes; I will; I agree: *"Shut the window, please." "Right you are!"* —opposite **wrong** (for 1,2,3) —see also **RIGHTLY**, see **someone right** (SEE¹ (22)) 7 **right?** *infml* is that right?: *You're Mrs Smith's daughter, right?* — ~ness *n* [U]: *They believe in the rightness of what they're doing.*

right⁴ *n* 1 [U] what is RIGHT³ (1): *You're old enough to know the difference between right and wrong.* 2 [C;U (to, of)] (a) morally just or legal claim: *She has a/the right to half your money.* | *the right to a fair trial* | *We fought for the right of access to government information.* [+to-v] *to exercise one's right to vote* | *You have no right to* (=should not) *treat me like this.* | *I know he's the boss, but that doesn't give him the right to order us around.* | *I've got every right to be annoyed.* (=it is quite reasonable that I am) | (*fml*) *Every shareholder will receive an invitation to the meeting as of right.* (=because they are SHAREHOLDERS, without any further special claim) | *She is British by right of birth.* | *You'd be quite within your rights* (=not going beyond your just claims) *to refuse to work on Sundays.* 3 **in one's own right** because of a personal claim that does not depend on anyone else: *Elizabeth II is queen of England in her own right.* (=rather than through marriage to a king) 4 **in the right** having justice on one's side; not deserving blame: *We must find out which of them was in the right.* —opposite **in the wrong** —see also **RIGHTS**

right⁵ *adv* 1 towards the RIGHT² (1,2): *Turn right at the crossroads.* —opposite **left** 2 properly or correctly: *Luckily I guessed right.* | *Did I do it right?* —opposite **wrong** 3 [+adv/prep] exactly: *She was standing right in the middle of the room.* | *Do it right now.* | *The police arrived right at the moment of the explosion.* 4 [+adv/prep] directly; straight: *Go right home at once; don't stop off anywhere on the way.* | *There's the house, right in front of you.* | *right after breakfast* 5 [+adv/prep] completely; all the way: *Go right to the end of the road.* | *Go right back to the beginning.* | *I haven't read the book right through.* | *I'm right behind you there.* (=support you completely) 6 *BrE sl, NEngE, or old use* very: *He's a right argumentative little brat.* | *I'm right glad to see you, lad!* | (in some titles) *the Right Honourable John Jones* | *the Right Reverend Bishop Jenkins* 7 (used in answer to a suggestion or order) yes; I will; **ALL RIGHT**: *"Come tomorrow." "Right! What time?"* —see also **ALL RIGHT** 8 **right and left** also **right, left, and centre** — *infml* everywhere or in every way: *We're losing money right and left.* 9 **right away** also **right off** esp. *AmE* — at once; without delay 10 **right 'on sl** (used to express agreement or approval) exactly correct 11 **Too right** esp. *AustrE* You are correct; I agree

right⁶ *v* [T] to put (something) right or upright again; bring back to a correct position or condition: *The boat capsized but we soon righted it.* | *to right the wrongs that have been done to these people*

right an·gle /'rɪtˌæŋɡl/ *n* an angle of 90 degrees, e.g. at any of the four corners of a square: *Put the tables at right angles to each other.* —see picture at **ANGLE**

right-an-gled /'rɪtˌæŋɡld/ *adj* (of a TRIANGLE) with one angle of 90 degrees —see picture at **TRIANGLE**

right-brain /'rɪtˌbreɪn/ *adj* concerned with or resulting from the right side of the brain, which controls the left side of the body and also ARTISTIC and IMAGINATIVE thinking

right-eous /'raɪtʃəs/ *adj* 1 esp. *lit or bibl* (of a person or their behaviour) (doing what is) morally good and just: *a righteous man* [also *n, the+P*] *The righteous shall go to Heaven.* | *"I never drink or smoke," he said in a righteous tone.* —see also **SELF-RIGHTEOUS** 2 (of feelings) morally blameless; having just cause: *righteous indignation* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

right field /'rɪtˌfi:ld/ *n* 1 (in **BASEBALL**) the area of the playing field outside the DIAMOND and to the right 2 the position of the player (the **rightfielder**) who plays in this area

rind /raɪnd/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a piece of) the thick rather hard

outer covering of certain fruits, esp. of the MELON and LEMON: *grated lemon rind* —compare PEEL² **2** (a piece of) the thick outer skin of certain foods: *cheese rind* | *bacon rind*

▷ USAGE Although the skin of the orange is of this type, it is called "peel". In the US, the skin of the lemon is also often called "peel".◁

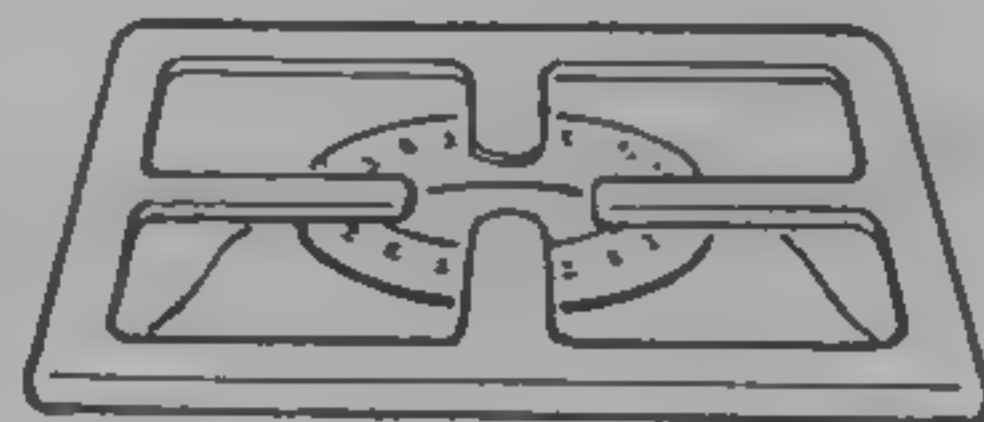
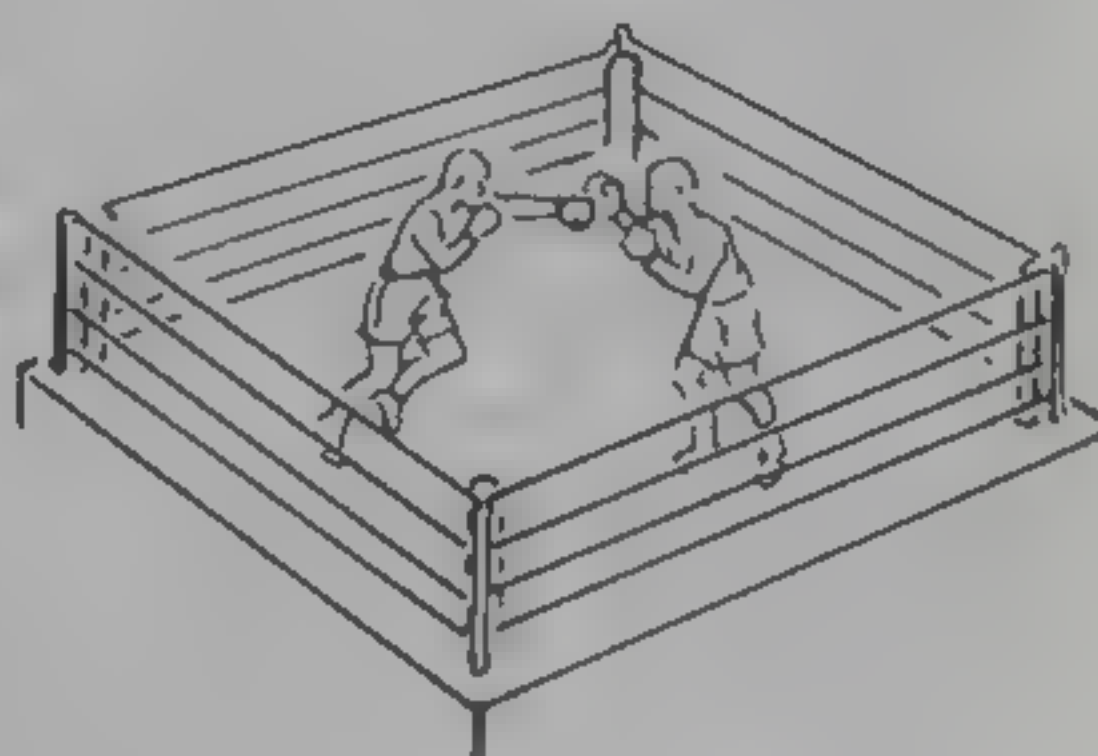
rind-less /'raɪndləs/ *adj* (of BACON) having the rind removed

ring¹ /rɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a small circular piece of metal, esp. gold or silver, that is worn on the finger as an ITEM of jewellery, or to show that a person is ENGAGED or married: *a gold ring* | *a diamond ring* (=decorated with one or more diamonds) —see also ENGAGEMENT RING, WEDDING RING **2** [C] a circular band or shape, esp. of the stated substance or for the stated purpose: *He puffed at his pipe and blew smoke rings into the air.* | *The little girl was supported in the water by an inflatable rubber ring.* | *the rings of the planet Saturn* | *a bull with a metal ring through its nose* | *Rings are put round birds' legs to identify them.* —see also KEY RING **3** [C] a circular line, mark, or arrangement: *There was a ring of troops round the building.* | *They danced around in a ring.* | *You can tell how old a tree is by cutting it across and counting the rings inside.* | (fig.) *You must have been having too many late nights — you've got rings round your eyes.* (=dark marks from too little sleep) **4** [C] esp. BrE a circular arrangement of metal that can be heated up by gas or electricity to cook things on: *a gas ring* —see picture at KITCHEN **5** [the] an enclosed usu. circular central space in a CIRCUS where the performances take place —see also RINGMASTER **6** [the+S] the small square space closed in with ropes in which people BOX or WRESTLE: *The challenger climbed into the ring.* | *He retired from the ring* (=from BOXING) *at 34.* **7** [C] a group of people who work together, often dishonestly in business or crime for their own advantage: *a drug ring/spy ring* | *The auctioneers organized a secret ring to control the sales.* **8** *make/run rings round someone* to do things much better and faster than someone **9** *with rings on her fingers and bells on her toes* a line from a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children) —see RIDE A COCK-HORSE **10** *with this ring, I thee wed* a phrase from the Christian marriage service, said at the point where the man gives the woman (and sometimes the woman gives the man) a wedding ring —see also *throw one's hat into the ring* (THROW¹ (22))

ring² *v* [T (with)] **1** to make, form, or put a ring round; ENCIRCLE: *Police ringed the building.* | *The old house was ringed (about) with trees.* | *Ring the spelling mistakes with red ink.* **2** to put a ring round the leg of (a bird)

ring³ *v* rang /ræŋ/, rung /rʌŋ/ **1** [T (for)] to cause (a bell) to sound: *The cyclist rang his bell loudly.* | *I rang the doorbell but no one answered.* **2** [I (at, for)] to ring a bell as a sign that one wants something: *She rang for service/for a drink.* **3** [I] (of a bell, telephone, etc.) to sound: *The telephone's ringing.* | *The bell rang loudly.* **4** [I;T (UP)] esp. BrE || call esp. AmE— to telephone (someone): *I'm expecting my mother to ring.* | *I think we should ring for an ambulance.* (=call one by telephoning) | *Please ring the doctor.* | *I'll ring you (up) tomorrow.* | *I tried to ring you but you weren't in.* —see TELEPHONE (USAGE) **5** [I] to make a continuous high or loud hollow sound: *The glass should ring if you hit it gently.* | (fig.) *His cruel laughter rang in my ears.* **6** [I (with, to)] to be filled with this sort of sound: *The courtyard rang with/to their shouts.* | *The crash really made my ears ring.* **7** *ring a bell* infml to remind one of something: *Her name rings a bell but I can't remember whether I've ever met her.* **8** *ring hol-*

rings



boxing ring

gas ring

low to sound untrue or insincere: *I knew he didn't really care, so his words of sympathy rang hollow.* **9** *ring the changes (on)* to introduce variety (esp. in something where there is a limited range of possibilities) **10** *ring the curtain up/down* to start/end a play by signalling for the theatre curtain to go up/down **11** *ring true/false* to sound true/untrue: *It was a clever excuse but it didn't really ring true.*

ring (sbdy. ↔) *back phr v* [I;T] esp. BrE to telephone again, esp. after a first unsuccessful attempt: *I told him you weren't in, so he said he'd ring (you) back later.*

ring in *phr v* **1** [I] esp. BrE to make a telephone call to a place, such as one's office, a radio station, etc.: *Jane has rung in to say she'll be late today.* **2** [T] (=ring sthg. ↔ in) to mark the beginning of (the New Year) by ringing church bells —compare RING out (2)

ring off *phr v* [I] esp. BrE to end a telephone conversation: *I'd better ring off now — the baby's crying.*

ring out *phr v* **1** [I] (of a voice, bell, etc.) to sound loudly and clearly: *The word of command rang out.* **2** [T] (=ring sthg. ↔ out) to mark the end of (the old year) by ringing church bells —compare RING in (2)

ring round (sbdy.) *phr v* [I;T] esp. BrE to make telephone calls to (a number of people): *She rang round to tell all her friends the news/rang round all her friends to tell them the news.*

ring sthg. ↔ up *phr v* [T] to record (money paid) on a CASH REGISTER: *The cashier rang up £20 instead of 20p by mistake.* —see also RING³ (4)

ring⁴ *n* **1** [C (of)] (an act of making) the sound of a bell or a bell-like sound: *He gave several loud rings at the door.* | *the ring of church bells* **2** [S (of)] a certain quality, esp. in something said: *Her story had the ring of truth about it.* (=sounded true) | *His excuse had a familiar ring.* (=I had heard it before) **3** *have a ring of confidence* appearing to have a calm unworried manner or strong belief in one's abilities: *Tommy's ring of confidence.* *School caretaker Tommy Joyce knows how to deal with bullies — he puts on boxing gloves and teaches victims how to fight back.* **4** [S] infml, esp. BrE a telephone call: *I'll give you a ring tonight.* —see TELEPHONE (USAGE)

Ring also **Ring of the Ni-be-lung-en** /,rɪŋ əv ðə 'nɪːbəlʊŋən/, **Ring Cy-cle** /'rɪŋ ˌsaɪkəl/ — [the] four OPERAS by Richard Wagner based on German MYTHOLOGY

Ring a ring o'ros-es /,rɪŋ ə ˈrɒs əz/ *n* a children's singing game in which the children join hands and dance round in a circle singing:

*Ring a ring o' roses
A pocket full of posies
A-tishoo! A-tishoo!
We all fall down*

Ring-a-round-the-ros-y /,rɪŋ ə ˈrɒs əz/ an American children's singing game:

*Ring-around-the-rosy,
Pocket full of posy,
Ashes, Ashes,
All fall down*

ring bind-er /'rɪŋ baɪdər/ *n* a notebook whose loose pages are held in position by metal rings fastened to a firm back

ring-er /'rɪŋər/ *n* **1** a person who rings bells, esp. in a church **2** AmE a person who enters a sports competition against the rules —see also DEAD RINGER

ring fin-ger /'rɪŋ fɪŋɡər/ *n* the third finger of the left hand (or, in some parts of the world, the right hand), on which a WEDDING RING is usually worn —see picture at HAND

ringing /'rɪŋɪŋ/ *adj* emotional, definite and expressed openly: *He praised her in ringing tones.* | *a ringing condemnation of human rights abuses*

ring-lead-er /'rɪŋ lɪːdə/ *n* a person who leads others to do wrong or make trouble: *Police arrested the ringleaders, but let the rest go free.*

ring-let /'rɪŋlɪt/ *n* a long hanging curl of hair: *a pretty child with golden ringlets*

ring-mas-ter /'rɪŋ mɑːstər/ || -mæ-/ *n* a person, esp. a man, whose job is directing performances in a CIRCUS

ring-pull /'rɪŋ pʊl/ *n* a ring on a tin of drink which is pulled to open it: *It comes in a ring-pull can.*

ring road /'rɪŋ rəʊd/ BrE || **beltway** AmE— *n* a road that goes round the edge of a large town so that traffic does not have to pass through the centre

ring-side /'rɪŋsaɪd/ *adj, n* [*the*] (at) the edge of a RING¹ (5,6): *We had ringside seats/seats by the ringside for the big fight, and saw it all.*

ring span-ner /'rɪŋˌspænər/ *n* BrE || **box end wrench** AmE— *n* a type of SPANNER with a hollow end that fits over the NUT to be screwed or unscrewed —see picture at TOOL

ring-way /'rɪŋweɪ/ *n* (a name for) a main road which goes round a town rather than through it

ring-worm /'rɪŋwɜːm||-wɜːrm/ *n* [U] a skin disease passed on by touch, causing red rings often on the head

rink /rɪŋk/ *n* a specially prepared surface of a ice, for skating (SKATE) **b** any hard material, for using ROLLERSKATES

rin-ky-dink /'rɪŋki dɪŋk/ *adj* AmE *sl* small, worn, and without much to interest one

rinse¹ /rɪns/ *v* [T] **1** [(OUT)] to clean using fresh water, esp. to put (clothes or hair) in clean water in order to remove soap after washing: *I'll just rinse (out) these shirts.* | *Rinse your mouth (out) with this mouthwash.* **2** [+adv/prep, esp. OUT] to remove (soap, dirt, etc.) from something by rinsing: *Rinse the soap out of these shirts/out of your hair.* | *She rinsed out the sea water from her swimming-costume.*

rinse² *n* **1** [C] an act of rinsing: *Give the shirts at least three rinses.* **2** [C;U] (a) pale liquid for colouring the hair: *a (bottle of) blue rinse for grey hair*

rinse aid /'rɪns aɪd/ *n* [U] a liquid put into a dishwasher to stop the rinsing water leaving marks on the plates, etc.

rinse hold /'rɪns ˌhəʊld/ *n* a washing machine control which prevents clothes from becoming creased (CREASE) by leaving them in water until the user is ready to take them out

Ri-o de Ja-nei-ro /,rɪˌəʊ də ʒə'niːəreɪ||-deɪ ʒə'neərəʊ/ a port and former capital of Brazil, also known as **Rio**. It is famous for its beaches (BEACH) such as the COPACABANA, and the SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN. The Earth Summit was held there in 1992.

Ri-o Grande /,rɪˌəʊ 'grænd/ [*the*] a river in the south of the US which forms a border between the US and Mexico. The Mexican name for it is **Rio Bravo**. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

ri-ot¹ /'raɪət/ *n* **1** [C] a scene of noisy, uncontrolled, often violent behaviour by a large disorderly crowd of people: *The sudden increase in the price of bread led to riots in the streets.* | *The army had to be called in to put down the riot.* | *The riot police used teargas to control the mob.* **2** [S] *infml* a very funny and successful occasion or person: *You should go and see the new show — it's a riot.* **3** [S+of] a bright and splendid show: *The garden is a riot of colour in summer.* **4** **run riot**: **a** to become violent and uncontrollable: *The football supporters ran riot through the town after their team lost the match.* **b** (of a plant) to grow thickly and uncontrollably

riot² *v* [I] to take part in a riot: *crowds rioting in the streets* — ~ *er n*

riot act /'rɪə ˌækt/ *n* read the riot act *usu. humor* to severely warn (a person or group) to stop making trouble: *If the children don't quieten down and go to sleep, I'll go upstairs and read (them) the riot act.*

ri-ot-ous /'raɪətəs/ *adj* **1** (of people or behaviour) wild, uncontrolled, and disorderly: *a riotous crowd* | *They were charged with riotous assembly.* (=taking part in a riot) | *riotous laughter* **2** (of an occasion) noisy and exciting: *They spent a riotous night drinking and singing.* — ~ *ly adv* — ~ *ness n* [U]

rip /rɪp/ *v* -**pp** -[I;T] **1** **t** to tear or be torn quickly and violently: *The sail ripped under the force of the wind.* | *I ripped my tights on a nail.* | *Impatiently, he ripped the letter open.* | *The cat's ripped the cushion cover to pieces/into shreds.* | (fig.) *He ripped my argument to pieces.* —see also RIPPER **2** **let something rip** *infml* to let something start or continue without any controls or limits: *OK, driver — open the throttle and really let her rip!* **rip** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** *infml derog* to charge too much: *They really ripped us off at that hotel!* **2** *sl* to steal: *Someone's ripped off my new bicycle!* —see also RIP-OFF

rip sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to tear violently into pieces: *She ripped the letter up angrily.*

rip into sbdy. *phr v* [T] to angrily attack someone with words or physically: *He really ripped into Sue for not showing up when she was supposed to.*

rip² *n* a long tear or cut: *There was a rip in the tyre caused by a sharp stone.*

RIP /,ɑːr aɪ 'piː/ *abbrev. for:* rest in peace (=words written on gravestones)

rip-cord /'rɪpkɔːd||-kɔːrd/ *n* **1** the cord that one pulls to open a PARACHUTE after jumping from an aircraft **2** the cord that one pulls to let gas out of a BALLOON (1)

ripe /raɪp/ *adj* **1** (esp. of fruit and crops) fully grown and ready to be eaten: *These apples aren't ripe; they'll give you indigestion.* | *a field of ripe corn* | *a ripe old Stilton cheese* | (fig.) *her ripe red lips*—opposite **unripe** **2** [F (for)] in a suitable condition (for something, esp. a change or new development): *This land is ripe for industrial development.* | *The time was ripe for a challenge to the power of the government.* **3** *old-fash infml* shocking in an amusing way: *That joke was rather ripe.* **4** **a ripe old age** a very great age: *He lived to a ripe old age.* | (*humor*) *She first appeared on stage at the ripe old age of six.* — ~ *ness n* [U]

rip-en /'raɪpən/ *v* [I;T] to become or make ripe: *The corn ripens in the sun.* | *The sun ripens the corn.*

rip-off /'rɪp ˌɒf/ *n* **1** *infml derog* an act of charging too much: *They charged you £5 for a coffee? What a rip-off!* **2** *sl* an act of stealing —see also RIP OFF

Rip-on /'rɪpən/ a market town in N Yorkshire, England, which is famous esp. for its CATHEDRAL

ri-poste¹ /rɪ'pɒst, rɪ'pəʊst||rɪ'pəʊst/ *n* **1** a quick, clever, and often unfriendly reply; RETORT **2** (in FENCING) a quick return stroke with a sword

riposte² *v* **1** [I;T] to reply as a RIPOSTE¹ (1) **2** [I] to make a RIPOSTE¹ (2)

Rip-per /'rɪpər/ [*the*] a name given to a person (usu. a man) who kills several times in a very unpleasant way which shocks and worries the public. The name is usu. given by the TABLOID newspapers as the killer becomes famous and the police search for him. —see also JACK THE RIPPER, YORKSHIRE RIPPER

rip-ple¹ /'rɪpəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move in small waves: *The lake rippled gently.* | *The wind rippled the surface of the cornfield.* | (fig.) *Laughter rippled through the audience.* **2** [T] to form RIPPLES² (2) on: *the rippled surface of the sand* **3** [I] to make a sound like gently running water: *a rippling stream* | *The water rippled over the stones.*

ripple² *n* **1** [C] a very small wave or gentle waving movement: *The light wind caused ripples to appear on the pool.* | (fig.) *There was a ripple of applause.* | (fig.) *A ripple of excitement ran through the crowd as the princess approached.* **2** [C] a wavelike mark: *The sea leaves ripples on the sand.* **3** [S (of)] a sound of or like gently running water: *I heard the ripple of the stream.* **4** [U] a type of ice cream with bands of white VANILLA ice cream and another type of usu. coloured ice cream: *raspberry ripple* | *strawberry ripple*

Rip-pon /'rɪpən/, **An-ge-la** /'ændʒlə/ (1944–) an English reader of the news on television who now works mostly on the radio. She is famous for being one of the first women to read the television news.

rip-roaring /rɪˌpəʊərɪŋ/ *adj infml* noisy, exciting, and uncontrolled: *a rip-roaring party* | *They had a rip-roaring time spending all their wages in one night.* | *The new play was a rip-roaring (=very great) success.*

rip-saw /'rɪpsɔː/ *n* a large-toothed SAW that cuts wood along the direction of growth (GRAIN (4))

rip-snort-er /rɪp'snɔːtər||-ɔːr-/ *n* AmE *old fash sl* something which is very exciting: *The roller coasters there are real ripsnorters.*

rip-tide /'rɪptaɪd/ *n* a TIDE (=regular rise and fall of the sea) that makes rough water and currents

Rip van Win-kle /rɪˌvæn ˌwɪŋkəl/ a person who is completely UNAWARE of new ideas and fashions (from a character in a story by Washington Irving, who slept for 20 years and found the world very changed when he woke up)

rise¹ /raɪz/ *v* **rose** /rəʊz/, **risen** /'rɪzən/ [I] **1** to move from a lower to a higher level or position; go up; get higher: *Smoke rose from the factory chimneys.* | *The river is rising after the rain.* | *Their voices rose higher and higher with excitement.* | *The price of bread has risen sharply/has risen by 15%.* | *The road rises steeply from the village.* | *The house was built on rising ground.* | *She eventually*

rose to an important position in the firm. | He rose from captain to colonel in five years. | My spirits rose (=I became happier) when I heard the news. | Tension in the region is rising. (=increasing) | rising prices/unemployment —opposite **fall**; see also **RISING**² **2** (of the sun, moon, or stars) to come up; appear above the horizon: The sun rises in the east. —opposite **set** **3** [+adv/prep; not in progressive forms] to show above the surroundings: The trees rose above the roof-tops. **4** [(UP)] also **arise** *fml*—to stand up from a lying, kneeling, or sitting position: He rose from his knees. | She rose to greet her guests. **5** *fml* to get out of bed; get up: She rises before it is light. —compare **RETIRE** (3) **6** *fml* (of a group of people) to formally end a meeting: The court will rise at 4.30. **7** (of wind or storms) to get stronger **8** [(UP, against)] to begin to be active in opposition; **REBEL**: The people rose up against their cruel oppressors. —see also **RISING**¹ **9** *lit* or *bibl* to come back to life after being dead: According to the Bible, Jesus rose/rose again/rose from the dead on the third day after his death. **10** [+adv/prep; not in progressive forms] (esp. of a river) to come into being; begin; have origin: The River Rhine rises in Switzerland. | The quarrel rose from/out of a misunderstanding. **11** (of fish) to come up to the surface of water: The fish are rising; perhaps we'll catch one. | (fig.) He made some stupid remarks about women drivers, but she didn't rise to the bait. (=she refused to become angry) **12** (of uncooked bread) to swell as the **YEAST** works **13** **rise to the occasion** to show that one can deal with a difficult situation when it happens: When the guest speaker failed to arrive, the chairman rose to the occasion and made a very amusing speech himself.

▷ **USAGE** Compare **rise** and **raise**. If you **raise** [T] something you lift it to a higher position: We raised the ship from the seabed. If you yourself move to a higher position you **rise** [I]: I rose from my seat. If more effort is needed you **raise** yourself: He raised himself from the ground. ◁

rise above sthg. *phr v* [T no pass.] to deal successfully with (a problem, disadvantage, etc.); **OVERCOME**: to rise above one's misfortunes.

rise² *n* **1** [C (in)] an increase in quantity, price, demand, etc.: There's been a sharp rise in the cost of living. | The rise in her temperature is giving cause for concern. | a 25% rise in the price of oil —opposite **fall** **2** [U] the act of growing more powerful, more active, or more widespread; development: the rise and fall of the Roman Empire | The rise of computer technology has transformed industry. **3** [C] an upward slope: There's a slight rise in the road just before our house. | We sat at the top of a small rise. **4** [C] *BrE* || **raise** *AmE*—an increase in wages: We all got a £6-a-week (pay) rise last month. **5** **get/take a rise out of someone** *infml* to intentionally make someone show annoyance: You can always get a rise out of John by making jokes about his hair. **6** **give rise to** to be the cause of; lead to (something bad or undesirable): Unhygienic conditions give rise to disease.

▷ **USAGE** Note the fixed phrase **rise and fall**: The rise and fall of the temperature during the day. ◁

riser /'raɪzə/ *n* **1** a person who gets out of bed at the stated time in the morning: She's an early/late riser. **2** the upright part of a step, between two **TREADS** (=flat parts)

risers /'raɪzəz/ *n* [U] a temporary set of steps which people can stand on so that each row is standing higher than the next: The choir mounted the risers quietly.

ris-i-ble /'rɪzəbəl/ *adj fml, usu. derog* causing laughter or deserving to be laughed at: His suggestion was so stupid as to be risible. —**bility** /'rɪzə'bɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

ris-ing¹ /'raɪzɪŋ/ also **uprising**— *n* an occasion of sudden violent opposition to a government or ruler

rising² *adj* moving to a position of greater importance, fame, etc.: the rising generation | a rising tennis star | a rising young politician

rising³ *prep esp. BrE* nearly (the stated age): My daughter is rising seven.

rising damp /'rɪzɪŋ ˈdæmp/ *n* [U] water that comes up from the ground into the walls of a building

rising fives /'rɪzɪŋ ˈfaɪvz/ *n* [P] in Britain, children who will soon be five years old, the age by which they must start school. Sometimes **INFANT SCHOOLS** take children when they are rising fives.

risk¹ /rɪsk/ *n* **1** [C;U (of)] (a) danger; (a) possibility that something harmful or undesirable may happen: The firemen wouldn't allow anyone back into the building because there was a risk/some risk of the fire breaking out again. [+ (that)] There was a risk that the fire would break out again. | Fishermen face a lot of risks in their daily lives. | Are you insured against all risks? | This window is a security risk; you should have a lock put on it. | The disease is spreading, and all young children are at risk. (=in danger) | You have to take/run a lot of risks if you want to succeed in business. | I don't want to run the risk of (=take the chance of) meeting George, so I'll stay here. | At the risk of seeming rude (=even if this seems rude), I must admit that I don't really like the painting. | a high-risk investment (=with a high danger of loss) **2** [C] (in insurance) a person or thing that has the stated likelihood of making the insurance company pay a claim: Because of his high blood pressure, he's not a very good risk for life insurance. **3** **at one's own risk** agreeing to accept any loss or danger: "Anyone swimming in this lake does so at his own risk." (notice)

risk² *v* [T] **1** to put in danger; take the chance of losing: You're risking your health by smoking. | She risked her life trying to save the drowning child. **2** to take the chance of (a possible unpleasant result): They will be risking a serious defeat if they hold an election now. | He realized that the police might find out but decided to risk it. [+ *v-ing*] By criticizing the boss he risked losing his job. **3** [+ *obj/v-ing*] to take (an action that may lead to danger or loss) in the hope that things will go well: In the present circumstances they are unlikely to risk an election/risk holding an election. (=because they may lose it) **4** **risk one's neck** to endanger one's life

risky /'rɪski/ *adj* (esp. of an action) having a high degree of risk; rather dangerous: You drove too fast round that corner — it was a risky thing to do. | a risky journey/operation/business investment —*ily adv* —*iness n* [U]

ri-sot-to /rɪ'zɒtəʊ/ *n* -**tos** [C;U] a dish made of rice cooked with cheese, onions, chicken, etc.

ris-qué /'rɪskeɪ/ *adj* (of a joke, story, etc.) slightly rude and shocking, esp. because concerned with sex

ris-sole /'rɪsəʊl/ *n* a small round flat mass of cut-up meat cooked in hot fat

rite /raɪt/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a ceremonial act with a fixed pattern, usu. for a religious purpose: funeral rites | The priest performed the last rites over the dying woman. | Anthropologists have described rites of passage (=ceremonies marking a new stage in one's life) practised by certain societies. | Satanic rites

rit-u-al¹ /'rɪtʃuəl/ *adj* [A] done as (part of) a rite or ritual: ritual dances | ritual murder —*ly adv*: ritually killed

ritual² *n* [C;U] one or more ceremonies or customary acts which are often repeated in the same form: Christian ritual(s) (=the form of church services) | (fig., humor) She went through her usual ritual of making sure all the doors were locked before she went to bed.

rit-u-al-is-m /'rɪtʃuəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] often *derog* great interest in or obedience to ritual —*istic* /'rɪtʃuəlɪstɪk/ *adj* —*istically* /kli/ *adv*

ritz /rɪts/ *n* *AmE infml* put on the ritz to show that one is wealthy by living in a large house, giving parties, etc.: He really puts on the ritz to try to impress people.

Ritz [the] one of an international group of expensive hotels: We stay at the Ritz wherever we can.

ritz-y /'rɪtsi/ *adj infml* *apprec* fashionable and expensive; **GLAMOROUS** (from the Ritz hotel chain, which is very comfortable and expensive, esp. The Ritz in London)

ri-val¹ /'raɪvəl/ *n* [(for, in)] a person, group, or organization with whom one competes: Who will be his main rival in the presidential election? | Bob and I were friendly rivals for the job/rivals in love. | These two companies are arch-rivals (=very great rivals) in the computer industry. | She left her job and went to work for a rival company. | a clash between rival football supporters

rival² *v* -ll- *BrE* || -l- *AmE* [T] to equal; be as good as or reach the same standard as: Ships can't rival aircraft for speed. | As a tourist centre, it rivals anywhere in Europe. —see also **UNRIVALLED**

ri-val-ry /'raɪvəlri/ *n* [C;U (with, between)] competition; (a case of) being rivals: There was a friendly rivalry between the two women. | There was fierce/intense rivalry

between the two companies to get the contract.

Ri-vals /'raɪvəlz/, **The** a play by Richard Sheridan, in which the character Mrs Malaprop appears —see also **Mrs MALAPROP**

riv-en /'rɪvən/ *adj* [F] *fml* split violently apart: *The whole community was riven by the strike, which some men had joined and others had not.*

riv-er /'rɪvə/ *n* **1** a wide natural stream of water flowing between banks into a lake, into another wider stream, or into the sea: *Let's go swimming in the river/sailing on the river.* | *the river Amazon* | *the Mississippi River* | *a river steamer* | *a river delta* | *the mouth of a river* | *sail up/down the river* | (fig.) *Rivers of blood flowed during the war.* —compare **STREAM**¹ (1); see also **sell someone down the river** (**SELL**¹) **2 rivers of blood** *quote* a phrase used by the British politician Enoch Powell in a speech saying that Britain should not allow IMMIGRANTS to enter the country. He said that if too many black people were allowed in, there would be fighting and "rivers of blood" in the streets of Britain. —see also Enoch POWELL

river ba-sin /'rɪvəˈsɪn/ *n* an area from which all the water flows into the same river

riv-er-bed /'rɪvəbed/ *n* the ground over which a river flows between its banks

Riv-ers /'rɪvəz/ *n* **Joan Rivers** /dʒəʊn/ (1933–) an American COMEDIENNE (=a woman who makes people laugh) and writer, known esp. for making rude jokes about sex and important people

Joan Rivers



riv-er-side /'rɪvəsɪd/ *n* [the] the land on or near the banks of a river: *Let's go for a picnic by the riverside.* | *an old riverside inn*

riv-et¹ /'rɪvɪt/ *n* a metal pin used for fastening metal plates together by putting it through a hole in the plates and then hammering one end flat, so that it spreads and holds firmly

rivet² *v* [T] **1** to fasten with rivets: *The metal plates used in making ships used to be riveted together, but now they're usually welded.* | (fig.) *I stood riveted to the spot* (=unable to move) *as the lions escaped from the cage and charged towards me.* **2** to attract and hold (someone's attention) strongly: *My attention was riveted by a slight movement in the bushes; could it be the murderer?*

rivet sthg. on sbdy./sthg. phr v [T often pass.] to fix (eyes or attention) firmly on: *He riveted his eyes on her.* | *Public attention was riveted on the nuclear accident.*

riv-et-er /'rɪvɪtə/ *n* a person whose job is fastening rivets —see also **ROSIE THE RIVETER**

riv-et-ing /'rɪvɪtɪŋ/ *adj* *apprec* very interesting and exciting; holding one's attention: *This is an absolutely riveting book; I can hardly put it down!*

ri-vi-e-ra /'rɪvɪ'eərə/ *n* [the] **1** a warm stretch of coast that is popular with holidaymakers: *the Cornish Riviera* **2 the (French) Riviera** the Mediterranean coast of France and Italy including Nice, Cannes, St Tropez, the Côte d'Azur, and Monaco. People think of the Riviera as being fashionable and expensive, and a place where rich and famous people go. —see also **SOUTH OF FRANCE**

riv-u-let /'rɪvjʊlət/ *n* *lit* a very small stream: (fig.) *rivulets of sweat*

Riy-adh /'rɪæd/ the capital city of Saudi Arabia

ri-yal, **rial** /'rɪːəl/ *n* a unit of money in Saudi Arabia and certain other Arab countries

RN /ˌɑːr 'en/ *abbrev. for:* **1** Royal Navy; the British navy: *Captain Anstruther, RN* **2** REGISTERED NURSE

RNA /ˌɑːr 'en/ *n* [U] ribonucleic acid; an important chemical found in all living cells

RNIB /ˌɑːr 'en aɪ 'bɪ/ *[the] abbrev. for:* ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

RNLI /ˌɑːr 'en el 'aɪ/ *[the]* Royal National Lifeboat Institution; a British organization (a CHARITY) of unpaid workers who raise money for the LIFEBOAT service around the coast of Britain

roach¹ /rəʊtʃ/ *n* **roach** or **roaches** a European fresh-water fish related to the CARP

roach² *n* **1** *AmE infml for* COCKROACH **2** *sl* the unsmoked end of a MARIJUANA cigarette

road /rəʊd/ *n* **1** [C] a prepared track or way, usu. with a smooth hard surface, along which wheeled vehicles can travel: *a busy road* | *Follow the road round to the right and you'll find his house.* | *a main road* | *a side road* | *a bumpy dirt road* (=without a hard surface) | *It takes three hours by train and four by road* (=driving). | *a road map of Western Europe* | *He hasn't got much road sense.* (=drives/walks carelessly and is likely to have accidents) | *a road accident* (=car crash, etc.) | *a road safety campaign* (=to make people drive more safely, cross the road more carefully, etc.) | *My address is 21 Princess Road.* (*written abbrev. Rd*) —see also **HIGH ROAD**; see **STREET** (USAGE) **2** [S] *dial* one's way: *You're in my road/Get out of my road; I want to pass.* **3** [C] also **roads pl.** — *tech* an open stretch of deep water, such as at the mouth of a river, where ships can be kept **4 all roads lead to Rome** any opinions formed, or decisions made, etc. will take one to the same place in the end: *All roads lead to Bryant quality homes.* | *For Lendl all roads lead to Wimbledon.* **5 on the road:** **a** on a car journey; traveling, esp. for one's work: *I've been on the road since five o'clock this morning and I'm really tired.* | **b** moving towards (a desirable result): *He finally felt he was on the road to success after they agreed to publish his first book.* | *Scientists have not yet found a cure for the disease, but they believe they're on the right road.* (=getting close to finding one) **c** (of a group of performers, esp. a theatrical company or popular music band) giving a number of planned performances at different places: *When will the band be going on the road again?* | (fig., *infml*) *Let's get this show on the road.* (=get this activity started) —compare **be on the streets** (STREET) **6 hit the road** *AmE infml* to begin travelling: *We hit the road bright and early.* **7 one for the road** *infml* one last drink before leaving a party. This is now discouraged because drinking and driving is considered dangerous. **8 the road to hell is paved with good intentions** *saying* a phrase used to criticize someone who has promised to do a good action or to behave better but who is unlikely to actually do this **9 ye'll tak the high road and I'll tak the low road, and I'll be in Scotland afore you** a phrase from the popular song *The bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond*

road-block /'rəʊdblək/ *n* a bar or other object(s) placed across a road, esp. by the police, to stop traffic: *roadblocks put up to trap the fleeing terrorists* | (fig.) *American investors are growing restive over roadblocks to their projects.*

road haul-age /'rəʊhɔːl/ *n* [U] the business of taking goods from one place to another by road

road haul-ier /'rəʊhaɪə/ *n* a person whose business is the carriage of goods by road

road hog /'rəʊhɒg/ *n* *infml derog* a fast, selfish, and careless car driver

road-house /'rəʊdhaʊs/ *n* **houses** /ˌhaʊzɪz/ a restaurant or bar on a main road outside a city, to which one goes to eat, drink, dance, etc.

road-ie /'rəʊdi/ *n* *infml* a person whose job is moving equipment, driving, etc. for entertainers, esp. ROCK³ musicians, when they are travelling

road kill /'rəʊkɪl/ *n* *AmE infml* an animal that has been killed by a vehicle on the road

road-man /'rəʊdmən/ also **road mend-er** /'rəʊmɛndə/ *n* **-men** /mɛn/ a man whose job is mending roads

road man-a-ger /'rəʊmænəʒə/ *n* a person whose job is making arrangements for entertainers, esp. ROCK³ musicians, when they are travelling

road rol-ler /'rəʊrɒlə/ *n* a heavy machine with very wide wheels for driving over and flattening road surfaces —see also **STEAMROLLER**¹

road-run-ner /'rəʊdrʌnə/ *n* **1** a small bird which runs very fast and lives in the central and western areas of the US **2** (*cap.*) a CARTOON character on television like this bird, which always escapes when a COYOTE (called Wiley Coyote) tries to catch it

road safe-ty /'rəʊsaɪti/ *n* [U] the prevention of people being

killed or hurt by road traffic: *the Government's new road safety campaign*

road-show /'rəʊdʃəʊ/ *n* a group that travels around the country giving public performances for the purpose of entertainment, advertising, etc.

road-side /'rəʊdsaɪd/ *n* [*the*] the edge of the road: *We ate our meal by the roadside/at a roadside pub.*

road-sign /'rəʊdsain/ *n* a sign by a road which gives information about the way ahead or instructions to road users

road-ster /'rəʊdstər/ *n* *old-fash* an open sports car with two seats

road tax /'rəʊ- / *n* [C;U] a tax (esp. in Britain) which the owner of a vehicle must pay to be allowed to drive it on the road: *Always display your (road) tax disc on the vehicle.*

road test /'rəʊ- / *n* a test of a vehicle on public roads to see if it is fit to be on the road —**road-test** *v* [T]

road-way /'rəʊdweɪ/ *n* [*the*] the middle part of a road where vehicles drive: *Don't stop on the roadway; move in to the side.*

road-work /'rəʊdwɜ:k||-wɜ:rk/ *n* [U] the running done by sportsmen, e.g. BOXERS to prepare for a match

road works /'rəʊdwɜ:ks||-ɜ:r-/ *n* [P] (often seen in Britain on a warning sign for motorists) road repairs being done

road-wor-thy /'rəʊd,wɜ:ði||-ɜ:r-/ *adj* (of a vehicle) in proper and safe condition to be driven —**thiness** *n* [U]

roam /rəʊm/ *v* [I+adv|prep;T] to wander with no very clear purpose: *The lovers roamed across the fields in complete forgetfulness of the time.* | *Crowds of youths roamed the streets looking for trouble.* —**er** *n*

roan /rəʊn/ *n, adj* (a horse) of a mixed colour, esp. brown with white hairs in it

roar¹ /rɔ:ɹ/ *n* a deep loud continuing sound: *the roar of an angry lion/of a football crowd/of an aircraft engine/of the wind and waves* | *roars of laughter*

roar² *v* 1 [I] to give a roar: *The lion/The football crowd roared.* | *I turned the key and the engine roared into life.* | *The traffic roared past.* | *He roared with pain/anger.* 2 [T (OUT)] to say or express loudly or with force: *The crowd roared (out) their approval.* | *"Come here, you horrible little man!" he roared.* 3 [I] *infml* to laugh long and loudly: *His jokes made us all roar (with laughter).* 4 [I] *infml* (of a child) to cry noisily: *Billy began to roar when I took the chocolate away.*

roaring /'rɔ:ɹɪŋ/ *adv, adj* [A] *infml* (in certain phrases) to a very great degree: *He came home roaring drunk.* | *The film was a roaring success.* | *The new restaurant is doing a roaring trade.* (=doing very good business)

roaring for-ties /,rɔ:ɹɪŋ / *n* [*the*+P] the part of the Atlantic Ocean about 40 degrees north of the Equator where storms are very common

Roaring Twen-ties /,rɔ:ɹɪŋ / [*the*] the 1920s, esp. in the US, where life was thought to be very adventurous because of Prohibition, GANGSTERS, and FLAPPERS

roast¹ /rəʊst/ *v* 1 [I; T] to cook (esp. meat) or be cooked by dry heat, either in front of an open fire or in an OVEN: *Roast the chicken at about 200°C.* | *The beef is roasting nicely on the spit.* | *roasted coffee beans* | (fig.) *They sat in the sun roasting themselves.* —see COOK (USAGE) and see picture at PAN 2 *AmE infml* to say funny things about a person whom a group has gathered to honour: *Don Rickles got up and roasted Alan King.* —**er** *n*

roast² *n* 1 a large piece of roasted meat: *Let's have a nice roast for Sunday dinner.* | *Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding is a common British meal.* | *Roast lamb and mint sauce are often eaten as a Sunday lunch.* 2 *AmE infml* an occasion when a group of people honour a person by saying funny and then kind things about him: *a celebrity roast on TV* 3 *AmE* an outdoor party at which the stated kind of meat is roasted and eaten: *a pig/hot dog roast*

roast³ *adj* [A] roasted: *a roast chicken* | *roast potatoes* | *medium roast coffee*

roast beef /,rɔ:ɹ / *n* [U] the meat of farm cattle which has been roasted. Roast beef, esp. served with YORKSHIRE PUDDING for Sunday lunch, is thought of as the most typical English food. —see also SUNDAY LUNCH

roast-ing¹ /'rəʊstɪŋ/ *adv, adj* very (hot): *a roasting (hot) summer day* | *I'm roasting out here; let's go into the shade.*

roasting² *n infml* an act of expressing strong angry disap-

proval: *He got a real roasting from the teacher for being insolent.*

rob /rɒb||rɑ:b/ *v* -bb- [T (of)] 1 to take the property of (a person or organization) illegally, esp. using violence, threats, etc.: *I've been robbed!* | *The brothers planned to rob a bank.* | *They knocked him down and robbed him of his watch.* (compare *They stole his watch.*) | (fig.) *The silly ending robs the plot of any credibility.* —see STEAL (USAGE) 2 **rob Peter to pay Paul** to take or get something from one person in order to pay another 3 **we was/wuz robbed!** *sl humor* a phrase typically said by supporters of a sports team who feel that the team lost a match unfairly

rob-ber /'rɒbəɹ||'rɑ:-/ *n* a person who robs or has robbed: *a gang of robbers* —compare BURGLAR, THIEF

robber bar-on /,rɒbəɹ / *n* *AmE* one of a group of mostly late 19th century American businessmen who made very large fortunes without regard to fairness or honesty

rob-ber-y /'rɒbəɹi||'rɑ:-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the crime of taking someone else's property; robbing: *He had committed several robberies in the neighbourhood.* | *He was charged with robbery with violence.* —see also DAY-LIGHT ROBBERY

robe¹ /rəʊb/ *n* 1 also **robes** *pl*— a long loose garment worn for official or ceremonial occasions: *a judge's black robes* 2 *esp. AmE* a long loose garment worn informally indoors —see also BATHROBE

robe² *v* [I;T (in)] *rare* to dress (oneself or someone else) in robes; put on a robe: *The king and queen were robed in red.*

Rob-erts /'rɒbəts||'rɑ:bərts/, Oral (1918–) a television preacher (PREACH) in the US who started a university in Oklahoma. He is remembered for saying on television that God would take him up to heaven if more than a million dollars was not raised for his university by a certain date.

Robert the Bruce see Robert BRUCE

Robe-son /'rəʊbsən/, Paul (1898–1976) an American singer and actor whose wide success in Britain and the US was unusual for a black person at that time. He left the US during the time of MCCARTHY because of his COMMUNIST beliefs. His most popular song was *Ol' Man River* from the musical *Showboat*.

Robes-pierre /'rəʊbspɪəɹ/, Max-i-mil-i-en /,mæksɪ'mɪliən/ (1758–94) one of the leaders of the FRENCH REVOLUTION, whose head was cut off at the GUILLOTINE after his short period in power

rob-in /'rɒbɪn||'rɑ:-/ *n* 1 a common small European bird with a brown back and wings and a red breast 2 any of various larger birds that look like this, in the US and other English-speaking countries —see picture at BIRD, and see also ROUND ROBIN

Robin¹ Batman's young partner, who helps him to fight criminals. Robin is also known as the "Boy Wonder". —see also BATMAN

Robin², Christopher see Christopher ROBIN

Robin Hood /,rɒbɪn / according to old stories, a man who lived as an OUTLAW in Sherwood Forest, near Nottingham, with a group of companions (the "Merry Men"), including Little John, Friar Tuck, and his lover Maid Marion. Robin Hood is remembered esp. for stealing money from rich people and giving it to poor people. His main enemy was the Sheriff of Nottingham, who was always trying to catch and punish him. Robin Hood is usu. shown dressed in green clothes and holding a BOW³ (1): *Labour MPs deem him a Robin Hood in reverse, robbing the poor to give to the rich.* —see colour picture on page 620

Rob-in-son /'rɒbɪnsən||'rɑ:-/, Edward G. (1893–1973) an American film actor famous for character parts and playing GANGSTERS

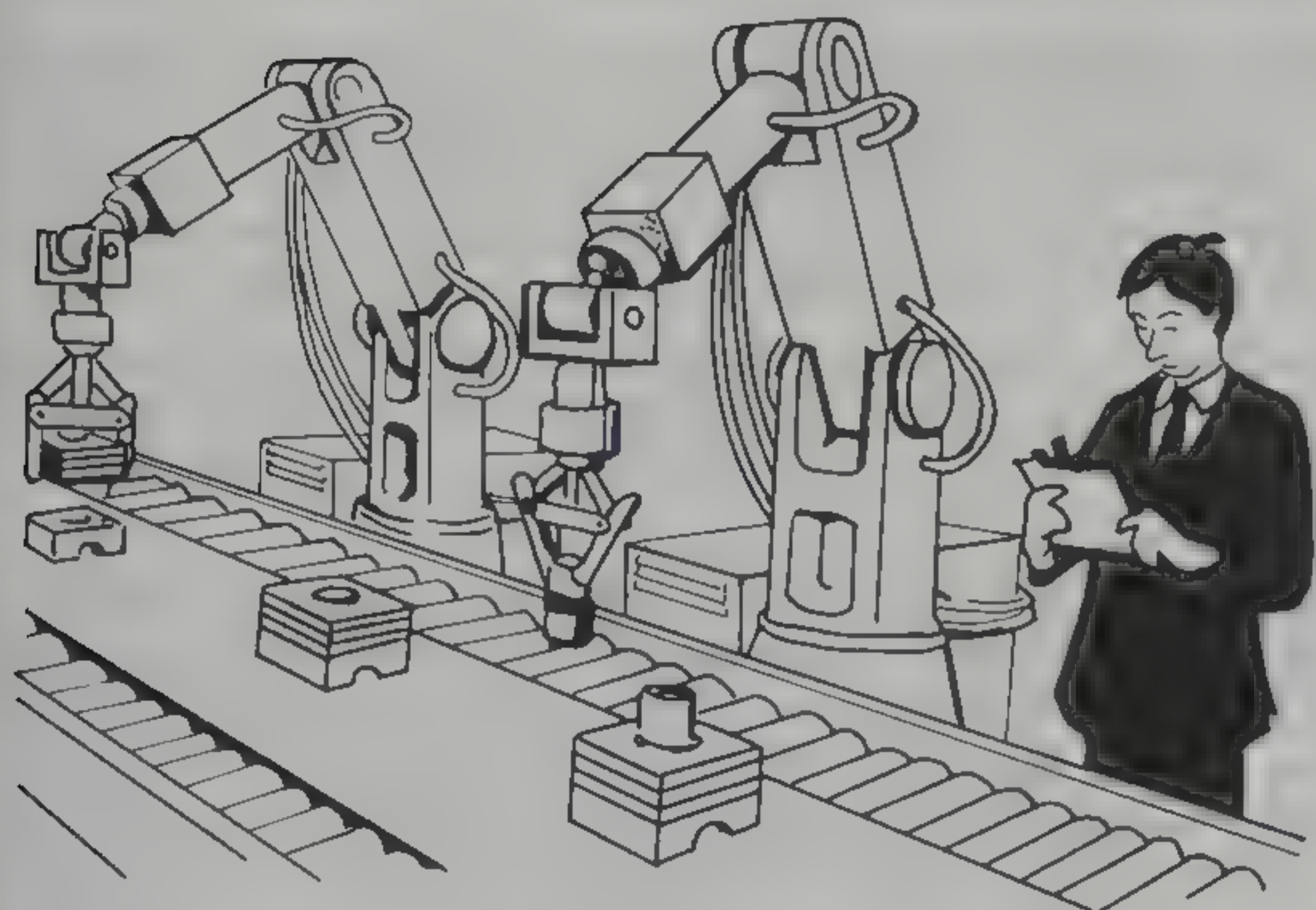
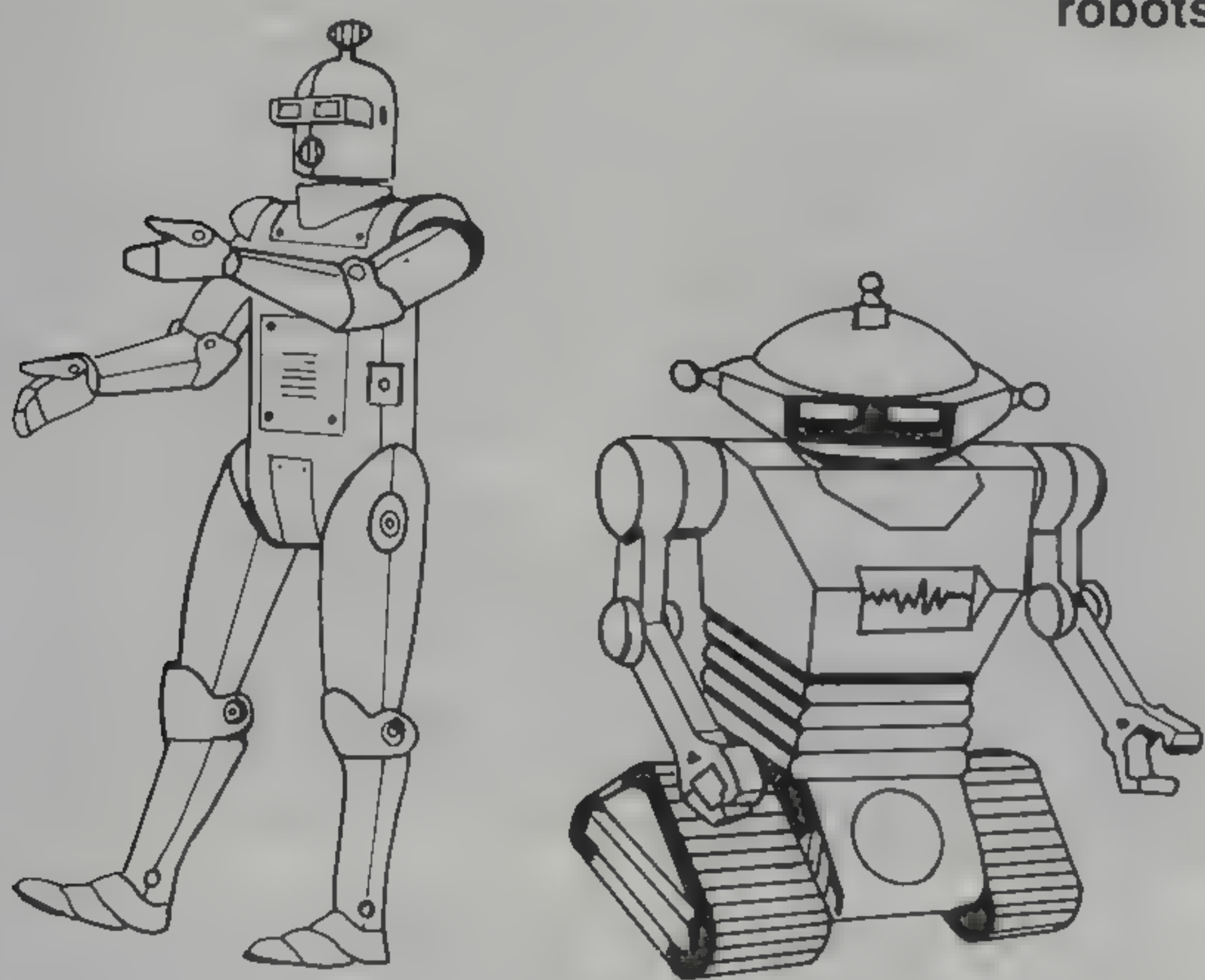
Robinson, Jackie (1919–72) an American who was the first black man to be allowed to play BASEBALL in the MAJOR LEAGUE

Rob-in-son, Smok-ey /'sməʊki/ (1940–) an American popular music singer, songwriter, and businessman who first became successful in the 1960s with the group The Miracles and the record company Motown, of which he later became Vice-President

Robinson, Sugar Ray (1920–89) an American BOXER, winner of six world titles

Robinson Cru-soe /ˌrɒbɪnsən ˈkruːsəʊ/ a character from a story of the same name by Daniel Defoe. Robinson Crusoe's boat sinks and he finds himself alone on an island. He manages to live by using whatever he can find by his own cleverness. He also meets a black man whom he calls Man Friday who becomes his servant and companion. They are both finally discovered by a British ship and taken home. —see colour picture on page 1145

robots



industrial robots

ro-bot /ˈrəʊbɒt/ -bɒt, -bət/ *n* a machine that can move and do some of the work of a human being and is usu. controlled by a computer: *These cars were built by robots.* | (fig.) *They were so brainwashed that they worked like robots, with no thought or initiative of their own.*

ro-bo-tics /rəʊˈbɒtɪks/ -'bɒt-/ *n* [U] the study of the making and use of robots

Rob Roy /ˌrɒb ˈrɔɪ/ (1671–1734) a Scottish OUTLAW, known as the “Robin Hood of Scotland”, who lived largely by stealing cows and selling protection against thieves. He was ordered to leave Scotland as punishment but was later forgiven. He is remembered mainly through Sir Walter Scott's NOVEL of the same name.

Rob-son¹ /ˈrɒbsən/ 'rɒb-/ **Bobby** (1933–) a former English football player at club and national level and a former manager of Ipswich football club and the England football team

Robson², **Bry-an** /ˈbraɪən/ (1957–) an English football player who has played for Manchester United since 1981 and was the captain of England for a long time

Robson³, **Dame Flora** (1902–84) an English actress

ro-bust /rəʊˈbʌst, ˈrəʊbʌst/ *adj* **1** *apprec* having or showing good health or strength: *a very robust child who never gets ill* | *a robust company* | *That chair's not very robust; don't sit on it!* **2** *euph* using strong arguments; forceful and effective: *rather robust criticism* | *a robust defence of the Administration's record* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

Roc /rɒk/ [the] in ancient Eastern stories, a bird of great size and strength which, in the story of *Sindbad the Sailor*, carried Sindbad out of the valley of diamonds

Roch-dale /ˈrɒtʃdeɪ/ 'rɒtʃ-/ a town in NW England near Manchester formerly known esp. for its cotton MILLS¹ (2)

rock¹ /rɒk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move regularly backwards and forwards or from side to side: *The boat rocked (to and fro) on the water.* | *She rocked the child in her arms.* | *He rocked the baby to sleep in the cradle.* **2** [T] to cause great shock and surprise to: *The news of the President's murder rocked the nation.* **3** **Rock-a-bye baby on the tree top** the first line of a song sung to get children to go to sleep **4** **rock the boat** *derog* to spoil the good or comfortable situation that exists: *We've been doing it this way for years; don't rock the boat by trying to introduce new methods.*

rock² *n* **1** [C;U] (a type of) stone forming part of the Earth's surface: *To build this tunnel we had to cut through (the) solid rock.* | *They go rock-climbing every weekend.* | *an interesting rock formation* | *igneous rocks* | *The house is as solid as a rock.* (=very strong and well built) **2** [C] a large separate piece of stone: *There's danger from falling rocks.* **3** [C] *AmE* any stone, large or small: *They threw rocks at her car.* **4** [U] *BrE* a hard sticky kind of sweet made in long round bars and sold esp. at the sea-side in Britain with the name of the place marked in it: *a stick of (Brighton) rock* **5** [C *usu. pl.*] *sl, esp. AmE* a diamond **6** **between a rock and a hard place** having two possible courses of action open to one, both of which are dangerous, unpleasant, etc. **7** **Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee** the first words of a famous HYMN (=religious song) written in 1775 by the Reverend Toplady, who had the idea for the hymn while sheltering from a storm, in a CAVE within a large rock

rock³ also **rock music**— *n* [U] **1** any of several styles of popular modern music which are based on ROCK 'N' ROLL, usu. played on electrical instruments: *a rock concert* — compare POP³ **2** ROCK 'N' ROLL

rock bot-tom /ˌrɒk ˈbɒtəm/ *n* [U] the lowest point; the bottom: *Prices have reached rock bottom.* | *Performance standards have fallen to rock bottom.* | *rock-bottom prices at the sales*

rock-bound /ˈrɒkbaʊnd/ 'rɒk-/ *adj* (of a coast) bordered with rocks

rock cake /ˈrɒk ˌkeɪk/ also **rock bun**— *n* *BrE* a small hard cake with a rough surface

rock climb-ing /ˈrɒk ˌklaɪmɪŋ/ *n* [U] the sport of climbing up large rocks and parts of mountains which are impossible to walk up

rock dash /ˈrɒk ˌdæʃ/ *n* [U] *AmE* for PEBBLEDASH

Rock-e-fel-ler /ˈrɒkəfələ/ 'rɒk-/ **John D** (1839–1937) a very wealthy American bank owner who gave away millions of dollars, esp. for medical studies and to start the University of Chicago. His son, **John D Rockefeller II**, gave the land for the United Nations HEADQUARTERS and built the **Rockefeller Center** in New York City, a large group of buildings which includes offices, shops, and various places of entertainment. —see colour map on page 1376

rock-er¹ /ˈrɒkə/ 'rɒk-/ *n* **1** either of the curved pieces of wood fixed to the underside of a ROCKING CHAIR, ROCKING HORSE, or CRADLE¹ (1) which allow movement backwards and forwards when pushed **2** ROCKING CHAIR **3** **off one's rocker** *infml, often humor* mad

rockers



rock-er² *n* (often *cap.*) a member of a group of young people, in Britain esp. in the 1960s, following a fashion for leather clothes, motorcycles, and ROCK 'N' ROLL —compare MOD

rock-e-ry /ˈrɒkəri/ 'rɒk-/ also **rock garden**— *n* a (part of a) garden laid out as a pile of rocks with low-growing plants growing between them

rock-et¹ /ˈrɒkɪt/ 'rɒk-/ *n* **1** a usu. tube-shaped object that is driven through the air by burning gases and is used

for travelling into space, for helping aircraft to take off, etc.: *The space rocket was launched and went into orbit.* | *a two-stage rocket* —see also RETRO-ROCKET **2** a similar object used as a weapon, esp. one that carries a bomb: *an anti-tank rocket* | *a rocket base* **3** also **skyrocket**—a small tube that has a stick fixed to it, is driven through the air by burning explosive powder, and is used as a FIREWORK **4** *BrE infml* a case of being severely spoken to because one has done something wrong: *You'll really get a rocket if you're late again!*

rocket² *v* [I] **1** [(UP)] also **skyrocket**—(esp. of an amount, price, etc.) to rise quickly and suddenly: *The price of sugar has suddenly rocketed (up).* **2** [+adv/prep] to move at very great speed: *The train rocketed through the station at 90 miles an hour.* | (fig.) *After his amazing success in the film he rocketed to stardom.*

rocket launch-er /'rɒk, ɔːl/ *n* a machine, carried by hand or on a vehicle, for sending up military rocket-type bombs

Rock-ettes /rɒ'kɛts/ [the +P] a group of women who perform at Radio City Music Hall, singing and dancing, usu. while in a line across the stage

rock-fall /'rɒk, fɔːl/ 'rɔːk/ *n* a mass of falling or fallen rocks

rock garden /'rɒk, ɡɑːdn/ *n* a ROCKERY

rock hard /'rɒk, hɑːd/ *adj* as hard as a rock

rock hound /'rɒk, haʊnd/ *n* *AmE infml* **1** a GEOLOGIST **2** a collector of rocks and minerals

Rock-ies /'rɒkɪz/ 'rɔː-/ see ROCKY MOUNTAINS

rock-ing chair /'rɒk, ʃaɪə/ also **rocker**—*n* a chair fitted with ROCKERS so that it moves backwards and forwards when a person sits in it

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Rocking chairs are often thought of as used by old people or country people or for sitting in while calming a baby. —see picture at CHAIR ◀

rocking horse /'rɒk, hɔːs/ *n* a wooden horse for a child to ride on fitted with ROCKERS so that it moves backwards and forwards

rock mu-sic /'rɒk, mjuːzɪk/ *n* [U] see ROCK³

Rock-ne /'rɒkni/ 'rɔːk-/ **Knute** /nuːt/ (1888–1931) an American FOOTBALL (2) COACH (teacher) who helped improve the standards of the game. When one of his players was ill, Rockne told his team to win the game for “the Gipper”. President Ronald Reagan, who as an actor played in a film about Rockne, often used the phrase “do it for the Gipper.”

rock 'n' roll /'rɒk ən 'rɔːl/ 'rɔːk-/ also **rock**, **rock and roll**—*n* [U] a style of music that was popular esp. in the 1950s but is still played now, which has a strong loud beat and is usu. played on electrical instruments and repeats a few simple phrases. It was first made popular by Bill Haley and Elvis Presley. —compare POP³

rock 'n' roll



Rock of Gi-bral-tar /'rɒk əv dʒɪbrəˈl-tɑː/ [the] a mountainous cliff at the NW end of the Mediterranean Sea. British people sometimes mention it when they want to give an idea that something is very solid: “*That tree house doesn't look very safe to me.*” “*Oh, it's like the Rock of Gibraltar.*”

rock plant /'rɒk, plɑːnt/ *n* a plant that grows naturally among rocks and can be planted in a ROCKERY

rocks /rɒks/ 'rɔːks/ *n* [P] **1** a line of ROCK² (1) under or beside the sea: *The ship was driven onto the rocks during the storm.* **2** *on the rocks*: *infml* a in difficulties; likely to fail soon: *The business/Their marriage is on the rocks.* **b** (of an alcoholic drink) with ice but no water: *Scotch on the rocks*

rock sal-mon /'rɒk, səl-mən/ *n* [U] *BrE* (the trade name for) any of several inexpensive types of fish, such as DOGFISH, when sold as food

rock salt /'rɒk, sɔːlt/ *n* [U] common salt of the type found in mines, not in the sea

rock solid /'rɒk, sɒlɪd/ *adj* very firm and safe: *The reserves of the Building Society are rock solid.* | *Support for the Tory candidate was rock solid.*

Rock-well /'rɒkwəl/ 'rɔːk-/ **Norman** (1894–1978) an American artist who drew many pictures of ordinary small-town people for popular magazines, often showing the American way of life in an idealistic (IDEALIST) way. His style of painting is very well known in the US.

rock-y /'rɒki/ 'rɔːki/ *adj* **1** full of rocks or made of rock: *a rocky path up the mountain* | *rocky soil* **2** hard like rock —iness *n* [U]

rocky² *adj infml* unsteady; not firm: *I feel a bit rocky (on my legs) after that fall.* | *After the recent problems, the company faces a rocky road ahead.* (=an uncertain future)

Rocky the first of a group of films (later ones were called **Rocky II**, **Rocky III**, etc.) starring Sylvester Stallone as a determined boxer called Rocky. In each of the films the main character overcomes difficulties and wins a fight against a strong opponent. The films are esp. popular with young people. —see colour picture on page 685

Rocky Horror Show /'rɒki ˈhɒrər ʃəʊ/ [the] a play and a film (**Rocky Horror Picture Show**) about a young man and woman who become involved with a strange man who dresses wildly. The film and the music from it are very popular with some people and these people can often say all the lines from the film and perform the dances.

Rocky Moun-tain oy-ster /'rɒki maʊn-taɪn ɔɪ-stər/ *n* *AmE* PRAIRIE OYSTER (2)

Rocky Moun-tains /'rɒki maʊn-taɪnz/ also **Rockies**—*n* [the+P] a range of high mountains lying between the W coastal plains of N America and the rest of the US and Canada from Alaska down to New Mexico —see colour map on pages 1374–5.

Rocky Moun-tain spot-ted fe-ver /'rɒki maʊn-taɪn spɒt-tɪd fe-vər/ *n* [U] a serious illness caused by the bite of a TICK³ in which one has a high fever and pain in the muscles, bones, and joints. The illness is found in the areas of the US near the Rocky Mountains. If untreated, it may cause death.

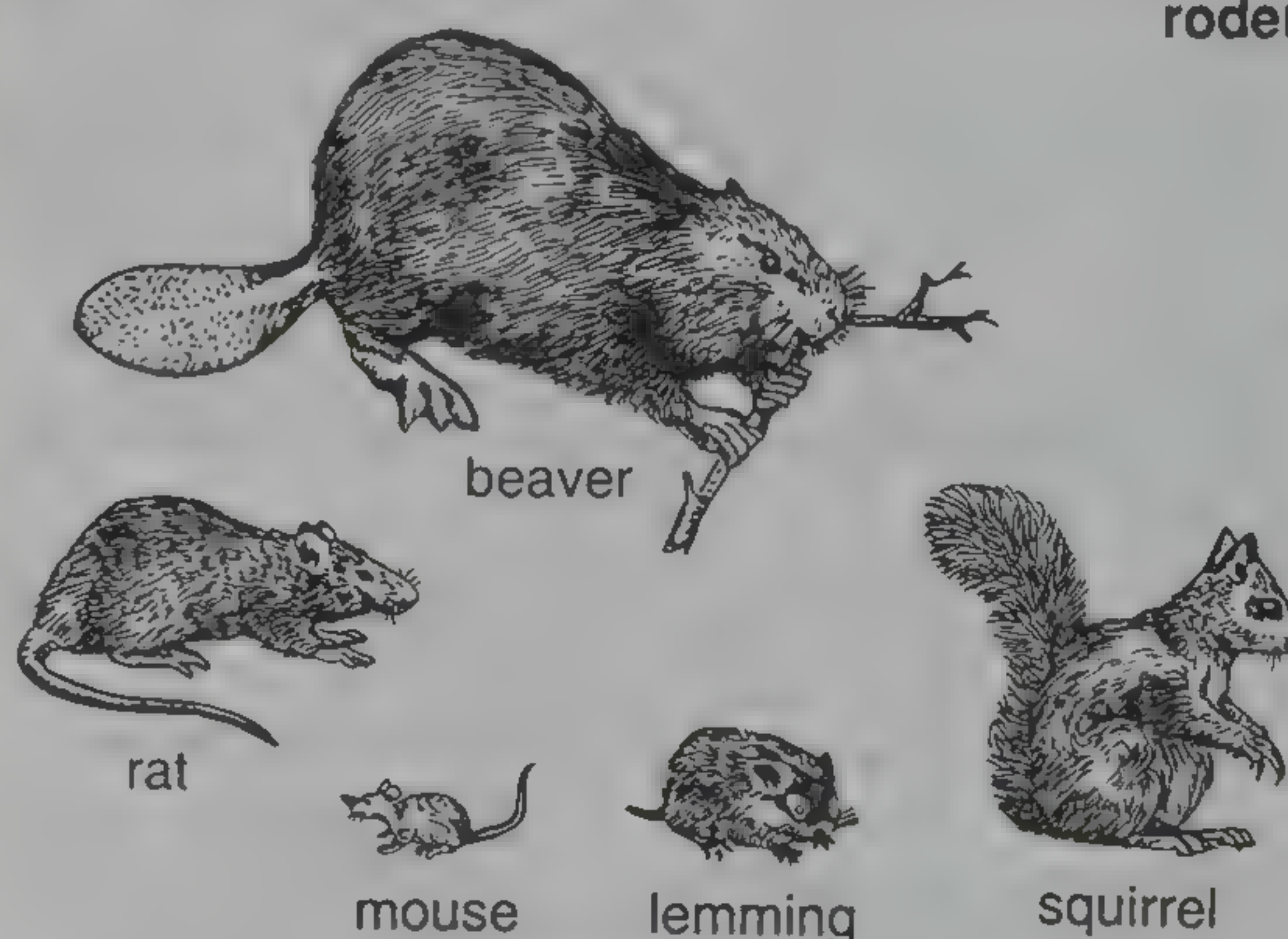
ro-co-co /rə'kəʊkəʊ/ *adj* (of buildings, furniture, etc.) in a style fashionable in Europe from the late 17th to the 18th century, with a great deal of curling decoration —compare BAROQUE

rod /rɒd/ 'rɔːd/ *n* **1** (often in comb.) a long thin pole or bar of any firm material such as wood, metal, or plastic, used for various purposes: *a fishing-rod* | *The piston-rods connect the pistons to the parts of the engine which they move.* | *The concrete walls are reinforced with steel rods.* | *fuel rods in a nuclear reactor* **2** *old-fash* a stick used for beating people **3** *make a rod for one's own back* to prepare trouble for oneself in the future —see also HOT ROD, **rule with a rod of iron** (RULE²), **spare the rod** (SPARE¹)

Rod-dick /'rɒdɪk/ 'rɔː-/ **A-ni-ta** /ə'ni:tə/ (1942–) a successful British businesswoman who established the group of Body Shops which sell soap and beauty products. She is known for her concern for the environment.

rode /rəʊd/ *past tense* of RIDE

rodents



ro-dent /'rəʊdənt/ *n fml or tech* a small plant-eating animal with strong sharp long front teeth: *Rats, mice, and rabbits are rodents/members of the rodent family.*

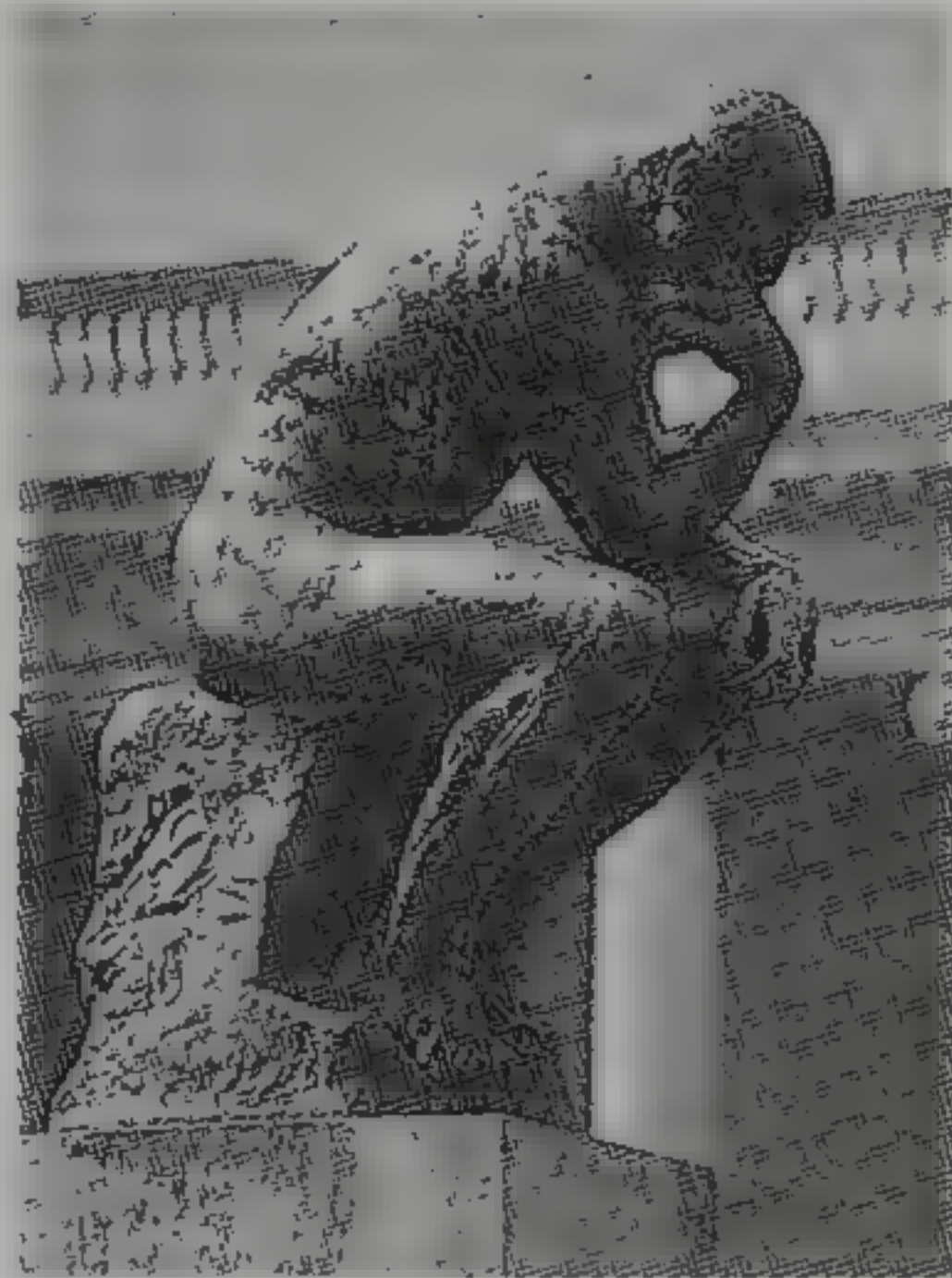
ro-de-o /'rəʊdi-əʊ, rəʊ'deɪ-əʊ/ *n* -os (esp. in Canada and the western US) a public entertainment at which COWBOYS ride wild horses, catch cattle with ropes, etc. —see colour picture on page 884

Ro-de-o Drive /rəʊˌdeɪəʊ ˈdraɪv/ a street in Beverly Hills, California, which has many expensive shops

Rod-gers /ˈrɒdʒəz||ˈrɑːdʒərz/, **Richard** (1902–79) an American songwriter and COMPOSER who wrote many songs for musical plays and films with Lorenz Hart, including *My Funny Valentine* and *The Lady is a Tramp*, and then with Oscar Hammerstein, such as *Oklahoma!*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*

Ro-din /ˈrəʊdæn||rəʊˈdæn/, **Au-guste** /əʊˈɡjuːst/ (1840–1917) French SCULPTOR whose best known works are *The Thinker* and *The Kiss*

The Thinker
by Auguste Rodin



ro-do-mon-tade /ˌrɒdəmɒn-ˈteɪd, -ˈtɑːd||rɑːdəmən-/ *n* [U] *fml derog* claiming to be specially brave or clever; BOASTFUL talk or behaviour

roe /rəʊ/ *n* [C;U] (a) mass of eggs in a female fish (**hard roe**) or SPERM in a male fish (**soft roe**), often eaten as food, esp. as a less expensive choice than CAVIAR: *smoked cod's roe*

roe-buck /ˈrəʊbʌk/ *n* roebucks or roebuck a male roe deer

Roe-dean /ˈrəʊdiːn/ an expensive English private school for girls

roe deer /ˈrəʊˌdiː/ *n* a small European and Asian forest deer

roent-gen¹, **röntgen** /ˈrɒntɡən||ˈrentɡən/ *adj* [A] *tech (often cap.)* of or being X-RAYS (from **William Conrad Roentgen** or **Röntgen** who discovered the X-ray)

roentgen², **röntgen** *n tech* the international measure for X-RAYS

Roe vs. Wade /ˌrəʊˌvɪː ˈweɪd/ *n* a court case decided by the US Supreme Court in 1973 which said that the states cannot prevent a woman from having an ABORTION

► **CULTURAL NOTE** This decision has caused CONTROVERSY and despite what the court decided many states have tried to make laws against abortion or have tried to prevent abortions in other ways, such as by saying that CLINICS which receive government money cannot discuss abortion with their patients. Many PRO-LIFE supporters would like another abortion case to go to the Supreme Court because they believe a different decision might be made now. ◀

ro-ger /ˈrɒdʒəʔ||ˈrɑː-/ *interj* (used in radio and signalling to say that a message has been received and understood): “Roger, control. Over and out.”

Roger *n* see JOLLY ROGER

Ro-gers /ˈrɒdʒəz||ˈrɑːdʒərz/, **Buck** a HERO in a COMIC who had many adventures in space

Rogers, Ginger (1911–) an American film actress and dancer best known as Fred Astaire's partner in 1930s musicals —see picture at Fred ASTAIRE

Rogers, Richard (1933–) a leading British ARCHITECT who designed (DESIGN) the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Lloyd's Building in London

Rogers, Roy /rɔɪ/ (1912–) an American actor who usu. played a COWBOY. With his wife **Dale Evans** (1912–) and his horse **Trigger** he appeared in a television programme in the 1950s and 1960s. At the end of their programme he and his wife always sang the song “Happy Trails to You,” which is still associated with them. —see also ROY ROGERS

Rogers, Will (1879–1935) an American actor and HUMORIST. Rogers sometimes told jokes while spinning a LASSO (a rope) and often made fun of politics and politicians. People believe that Rogers once said “I never met a man I didn't like,” though what he really said was slightly different.

Ro-get /ˈrɒʒeɪ||rəʊˈzeɪ/, **Peter Mark** (1779–1869) a British scientist and writer of *Roget's Thesaurus*, now a standard work on the English language

Roget's The-sau-rus /ˌrɒʒeɪˈθɛsɔːrɪs||ˌrəʊˈzeɪˈθɛsɔːrɪs/ *tdmk* the original THESAURUS (=a book of words arranged in groups according to connections between their meanings) written in English by Roget and printed in 1852

rogue¹ /rəʊɡ/ *n* 1 a dishonest person, esp. a man: *Don't*

buy a used car from that rogue. 2 *not derog, often humor* a person who enjoys making trouble, but usu. in a harmless and playful way; MISCHIEVOUS person

rogue² *adj* [A] 1 (of a wild animal) living apart from the rest and very easily made angry: *a rogue elephant* 2 *not following the usual or accepted standards, esp. in an uncontrollable or troublesome way: rogue politicians who go against the party line*

rogu-e-ry /ˈrəʊɡəri/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) behaviour typical of a rogue

rogues' gal-ler-y /ˌrəʊɡz ˈɡæləri/ *n* a collection of (pictures of) bad or unpleasant people, esp. criminals

rogu-ish /ˈrəʊɡɪʃ/ *adj* *often humor* playful, perhaps slightly dishonest, and fond of playing tricks or making trouble: *a roguish grin* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

rois-ter-er /ˈrɔɪstərə/ *n* *old-fash* a rough cheerful noisy person: *a crowd of drunken roisterers*

role /rəʊl/ *n* 1 the part or character taken by an actor in a play, film, etc.: *Olivier played/took the role of Hamlet.* | *She prefers to play comic roles.* 2 the duty or purpose of a person or group in a particular activity or area of life: *The local priest played a leading role in settling the dispute.* | *the increasingly important role of the media in political life* | *The success of her business made it difficult for her to fulfil her role as wife and mother.* —see also TITLE ROLE

role mod-el /ˌrəʊl ˈmɒdəl/ *n* a person whose behaviour in a particular ROLE (2) is copied or is likely to be copied by others, esp. because he or she is admired

role play-ing /ˌrəʊl ˈpleɪɪŋ/ *n* [U] the act of behaving in a way typical of someone else or of an imaginary person, either unconsciously or for the purpose of learning a job, learning how to behave in certain social situations, etc. —**role play** *n, v*

role reversal /ˌrəʊl ˈrɪvərsəl/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) doing what the opposite sex usu. does esp. in areas such as work, care of children, jobs in the house etc.

Ro-lex /ˈrəʊleks/ *n tdmk* a very expensive type of watch

rolf-ing /ˈrɒlfɪŋ||ˈrɔːl-/ also **Structural Integration**— *n* [U] *tdmk* a method of improving the body's shape and balance by moving and reshaping the deep muscles and TISSUES. Rolfing was developed by Ida P Rolf (1896–1979), an American doctor (PhD) of PHYSIOLOGY. The method is better-known in the US than in Britain, but is still new to the public. As it is not practised by an ordinary doctor, but by a trained **rolfer**, it is considered a kind of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE: *He's going to try rolfing.*

roll¹ /rəʊl/ *v* 1 [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to turn over and over or from side to side, or move by doing this: *The dog rolled on the floor/in the mud.* | *The ball rolled into the hole.* | *They rolled the logs down the hill into the river.* | *Roll up your sleeves/trousers before putting your arms/legs in the water.* | *The driver rolled down his window (=opened it by turning the handle) to speak to the policeman.* 2 [T (UP)] to form into a tube or other (stated) shape by curling round and round: *to roll up a carpet* | *He rolled (up) his umbrella.* | *The cat rolled itself into a ball and went to sleep.* | *He rolled a cigarette.* (=made one by wrapping paper round tobacco) —opposite **unroll**; see also **ROLL out** (2) 3 [I] to move steadily and smoothly along (as if) on wheels: *The train rolled slowly into the station.* | *The waves rolled over the sand.* | *Tears were rolling down her cheeks.* | *Time rolled on.* 4 [I;T] to move or cause (the eyes) to move round and round: *She rolled her eyes in disbelief.* 5 [I;T] to throw (DICE): *Have you rolled (the dice) yet?* 6 [I] (of a ship) to swing from side to side with the movement of the waves: *The ship rolled so heavily that we were all sick.* | (fig.) *The drunken man rolled home to bed.* —compare **PITCH**¹ (5), **YAW** 7 [T] to make flat by pressing with a ROLLER (1) or **ROLLING PIN**: *The lawn should be well rolled.* | *Roll the pastry as flat as you can.* | *rolled oats* —compare **ROLL out** (1) 8 [I] to make a long deep sound like that of a lot of quick strokes: *The thunder/The drums rolled.* 9 [I] (of a machine, esp. a film camera) to work or begin working: *Are the cameras rolling?* | *The presses (=for printing a newspaper) are ready to roll.* | (fig.) *He hopes to get his new venture rolling by July.* 10 [T] *AmE sl* to rob someone when he is drunk or asleep: *He got some change by rolling a drunk.* 11 **a rolling stone gathers no moss** a person who frequently changes his/her job, place of living, etc. will not

become tied to anything that limits their freedom **12 rolled into one** (of something with different parts or qualities) in a single thing, activity, etc.: *Breakfast TV is like a chat show and a news programme rolled into one.* **13 roll in the aisles** (esp. of people at the theatre) to laugh uncontrollably **14 roll one's r's** to pronounce the sound /r/ with the tongue beating rapidly against the roof of the mouth, as is common e.g. in Scotland **15 roll one's own** *infml* to make one's own cigarettes instead of buying them —see also **set/start/keep the ball rolling** (BALL), **heads will roll** (HEAD¹), **rolling in it** (ROLLING) **16 roll out of bed** *AmE infml* to get out of bed

roll around/round to come again, esp. as part of a pattern: *School will soon be rolling around again, the summer's nearly over.*

roll sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] **1** to force (opponents) to move back; push back: *We rolled back the enemy forces on all fronts.* | (fig.) *to roll back the frontiers of science/the powers of central government* **2** *AmE* to reduce (prices)

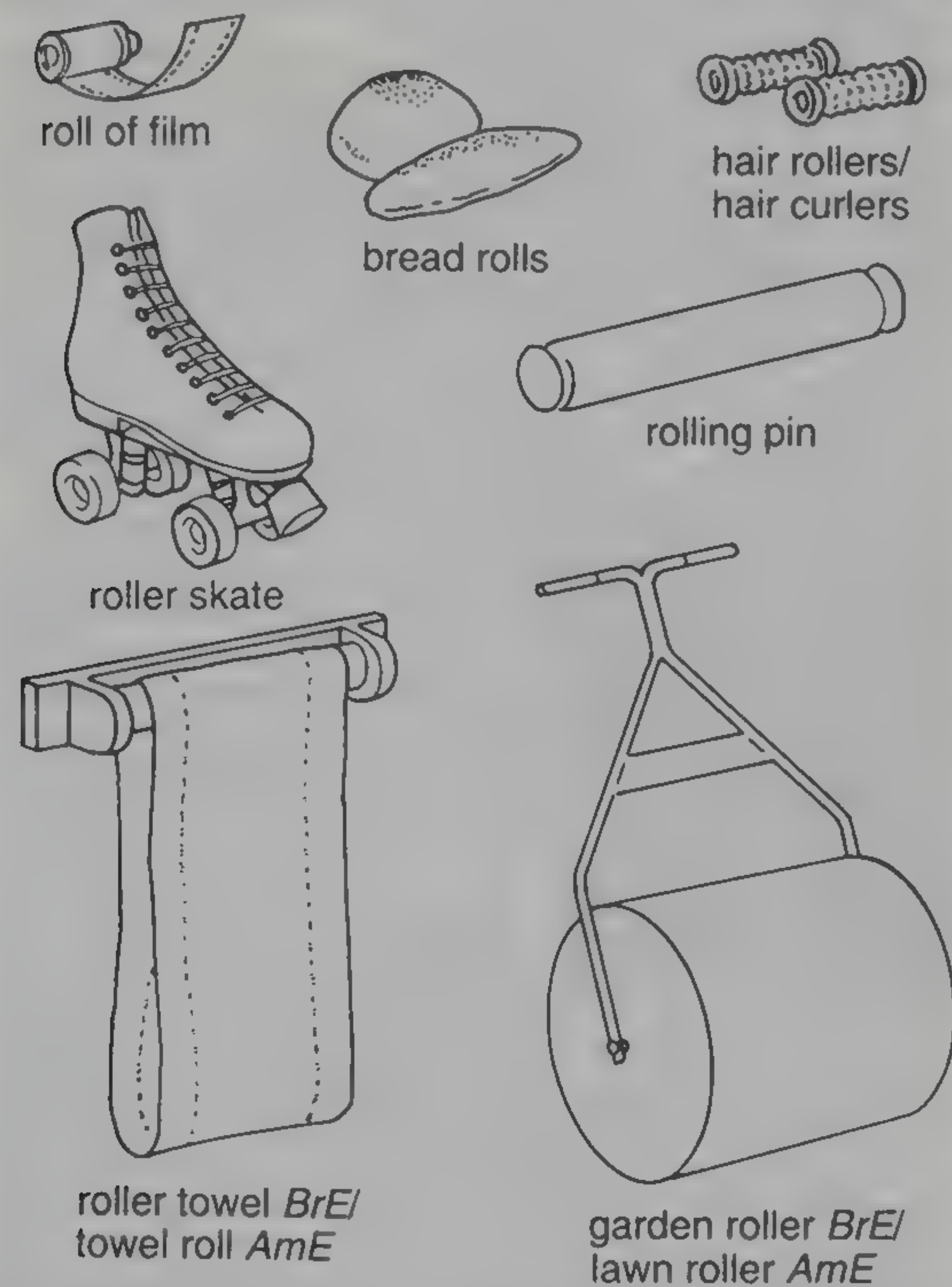
roll in *phr v* [I] to come or arrive in large quantities: *Invitations kept rolling in.* —compare **ROLL up**

roll on *phr v* [I *imperative*] *BrE infml* (used to express a wish that a time or event will come quickly): *I really need a break — roll on Christmas!* —see also **ROLL-ON**

roll sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to spread (a piece of material) out flat and thin by pressing with a **ROLLER** or a **ROLLING PIN**: *Roll out the pastry.* —compare **ROLL¹** (7) **2** to **UNROLL**: (fig.) *We rolled out the red carpet* (=we made special preparations) *for the important visitor.*

roll up *phr v* [I] **1** *infml* to arrive, esp. late or in some unacceptable way: *I might have known you wouldn't roll up until the meeting had nearly finished.* **2** [*usu. imperative*] (used esp. when asking people to come inside and see a show at a **CIRCUS**, **FAIR**, etc.) to come in: *Roll up, roll up, the show's about to begin!* —compare **ROLL in**; see also **ROLL** (1,2)

rolls



roll² n **1** [C] an act of rolling; a rolling movement, over and over or from side to side: *a young horse having a roll on the grass* | *the slow roll of a ship on the rough sea* | *another roll of the dice* —compare **PITCH²** (5) **2** [C (of)] a piece of flat material that has been rolled into a tube: *a roll of film/of paper/of cloth* —see picture at **ROLL¹** **3** [C] something in this shape: *She was disgusted by the rolls of fat on his stomach.* **4** [C] a small loaf for one person, either long or round: *crusty/soft rolls* | *a cheese roll* (=cut and filled with cheese) —see also **SAUSAGE ROLL**, **SPRING ROLL**, and picture at **ROLL¹** **5** [(the) +of] a long deep sound (as if) of a lot of quick strokes: *a roll of thunder/of drums* | *We heard the distant roll of the big guns.* **6** [C] an official list of names: *The teacher called the roll.*

(=read the list aloud to see if everyone was there) **7** [C] the act of throwing **DICE**: *Come on, it's your roll!* | *I had doubles so I get another roll.*

roll bar /'rɒl bɑː/ *n* a metal bar on the top of a car, to protect the people inside if the car turns over

roll call /'rɒl kɔːl/ *n* [C;U] (the time for) an act of reading out an official list of names to see who is there: *They had a roll call to check that no one was missing.* | *I'll see you after roll call.*

rolled gold /'rɒld ɡɒld/ also **gold plate** || **filled gold** *AmE* — *n* [U] a thin covering of gold on the surface of another metal: *My watch is only rolled gold* (=has a covering of gold), *not solid gold.*

rolled oats /'rɒld əʊts/ *n* [P] a kind of grain which has been rolled to make it thinner and so quicker to cook and easier to eat. Rolled oats are used for **MUESLI** and **PORRIDGE**.

roller /'rɒlə/ *n* **1** a tube-shaped piece of wood, metal, hard rubber, etc., that rolls over and over, esp. one that is used **a** in a machine, for crushing, pressing, printing, etc. **b** for making the surface of grass or roads smooth: *a garden roller* —see also **STEAMROLLER** **c** for moving heavy things that have no wheels: *They pushed the boat down to the water on rollers.* **d** also **curler** for shaping: *She put her hair in rollers to make it curl.* —see picture at **ROLL¹** **2** a rod round which something is rolled up: *a big map on a roller* **3** a long heavy wave on the coast: *The great Atlantic rollers surged in.* **4** a person or thing that rolls something

roller blind /'rɒlə blɪnd/ *BrE* || **blind, shade** *AmE* — *n* a piece of cloth or other material that can be rolled up and down over a window to reduce the amount of light entering —compare **LOUVRE BLIND**, **VENETIAN BLIND** and see picture at **BLIND**

roller coaster /'rɒlə ˌkɔːstə/ *n* a small railway with steep slopes and sharp curves, found in amusement parks: (fig.) *a roller coaster of successes and disasters*

roller dis-co /'rɒlə dɪs-ko/ *n* a dance to recorded music at which people dance while wearing roller skates

roller skate /'rɒlə skeɪt/ *n* a frame with four wheels for fitting under a shoe, or a shoe with wheels fixed on it, allowing the wearer to move quickly on a road or smooth surface: *a boy on roller skates* —compare **ICE SKATE**, **SKATEBOARD**; see **PAIR (USAGE)**, and see picture at **ROLL¹** —**roller-skate** *v* [I] —**roller-skater** *n*

roller towel /'rɒlə ˌtəʊəl/ *n* a cloth (TOWEL) that has its ends joined to form a circle so that a dry part can be pulled out for drying the hands on; mainly used in public places, not in ordinary houses —see picture at **ROLL¹**

rollick-ing /'rɒlɪkɪŋ/ || 'rɑː- *adj* [A] noisy and merry; **BOISTEROUS**: *We had a rollicking time.*

rollicking ² *n* *BrE infml* an act of expressing angry disapproval of someone: *He arrived several hours late and got a right rollicking from the boss.*

roll-ing /'rɒlɪŋ/ *adj* **1** [A] (of land) rising and falling in long gentle slopes: *rolling hills* **2** [A] happening continuously by stages rather than all at once: *rolling devolution of power to local government* **3** **rolling in it** *infml* extremely rich: *He's bought another new car — he must be absolutely rolling in it!*

rolling mill /'rɒlɪŋ mɪl/ *n* a factory or machine in which metal is rolled out into large flat thin pieces

rolling pin /'rɒlɪŋ pɪn/ *n* a long tube-shaped piece of wood or other material for spreading pastry out flat and thin before cooking

► **CULTURAL NOTE** In humorous stories and jokes, a wife is sometimes shown hitting her husband with a rolling pin when he arrives home late or drunk. ◀

rolling stock /'rɒlɪŋ stɒk/ *n* [U] everything on wheels that belongs to a railway, such as engines and carriages

rolling stone /'rɒlɪŋ stəʊn/ *n* *infml* a person who travels around a lot and has no fixed address or responsibilities

Rolling Stone an American magazine that reports esp. on people and events in the popular music industry

Rolling Stones /'rɒlɪŋ stəʊnz/, **The also Stones** *infml* — British popular music group which was formed in the 1960s and became one of the most successful ever. The group still sometimes plays together, and the best known member is Mick Jagger. —see colour picture on page 554

roll-mop /'rɒlmɒp||'rɔ:lmɔ:p/ *n* *BrE* a piece of HERRING that has been rolled up and pickled (PICKLE²)

roll of hon·our /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *BrE* || **honor roll** *AmE*— *n* a list of the names of people who have earned praise, e.g. by passing an examination, showing bravery in battle, etc.

roll-on /ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* **1** a liquid that is put on, esp. onto the body, by means of a rolling ball in the neck of its container: *roll-on deodorants* **2** a woman's elastic GIRDLE that is pulled on in one piece, worn esp. formerly

roll-on roll-off /ɪ· 'ɔ: / also **ro-ro** *infml*— *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* allowing vehicles to drive on and off: *a roll-on roll-off car ferry*

roll-o-ver /'rɒləʊvə/ *adj* *AmE* (of an amount of money such as a PENSION or INVESTMENT) continuing to be invested (INVEST) or lent (LOAN) without stopping, to avoid financial PENALTY: *a rollover investment account which prevents tax demands on the interest*

Rolls-Royce /,rɒlz 'rɔ:is/ also **Rolls** *infml*— *n* *tdmk* **1** a company which produces very expensive and comfortable cars and is also well-known for aircraft engines: *That pop singer down the road has just bought a Rolls Royce!* **2** *infml* a product that is regarded as the highest quality example of a particular type of product: *This is the Rolls-Royce of video recorders—it has everything.*

roll-top desk /,rɒltɒp 'desk||-tɔ:p-/ *n* a desk whose cover rolls back out of the way when it is opened

ro-ly-po-ly¹ /,rɒli 'pɒli/ also **roly-poly** **pud·ding** /,ɪ· 'ɔ: /— *n* [C;U] (in Britain) (a) sweet dish made of JAM that is rolled up in pastry and then baked or boiled

roly-poly² *adj infml* *humor* (of a person) fat and round: *a roly-poly little man*

ROM /rɒm||rɔ:m/ *n* read-only memory; a computer memory holding information that is continuously needed by the computer, such as the instructions for the language it uses. Information in this form cannot usually be changed or removed: *a ROM chip/circuit | a programmable ROM* —compare RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY; see also CD-ROM

ro-maine let-tuce /rɒ,meɪn 'letɪs/ *n* *esp. AmE* for COS LETTUCE

ro-man /'rɒmən/ *n* [U] (the ordinary style of) printing with upright letters like the ones used for printing these words —compare ITALICS

Roman *n, adj* (a citizen) **a** of ancient Rome or its EMPIRE: *the Roman emperors | Roman roads | a book about Roman history* **b** of the city of Rome —see also HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, ROMAN EMPIRE

Roman al·pha·bet /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / [*the*] the alphabet beginning A, B, C, used in English and many other languages, as opposed to those of Greek, Arabic, the Cyrillic languages, etc.

Roman can·dle /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* a tube-shaped FIREWORK that shoots out burning coloured stars

Roman Cath·o·lic /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / also **Catholic**— *n, adj* (a member) of the branch of the Christian religion (the **Roman Catholic Church**) whose leader (the POPE) rules from Rome. Services usu. involve more ceremony and RITUAL than Protestant services. Roman Catholic priests are not allowed to marry: *Her family are Roman Catholic/are all Roman Catholics. | a Roman Catholic bishop* —compare PROTESTANT —**licism** /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* [U]

ro-mance¹ /rɒ'mæns, rə-/ *n* **1** [C] a love affair: *She thought it was going to be the big romance of her life, but he left her after only a few weeks.* **2** [U] a ROMANTIC¹ (2) quality: *the romance of life in the Wild West* **3** [C] a story of love, adventure, mystery, etc., often set in a distant time or place, whose events are happier or grander or more exciting than those of real life: *a romance about a king who married a beggar girl* **4** [U] love between a man and a woman, represented in Britain by boxes of chocolates, red roses, dinners by CANDLELIGHT, love letters, and walks by the light of the moon: *She went on holiday in search of romance.*

romance² *v* [I] *rare* **1** [(about)] to tell improbable stories **2** [(with)] to carry on a love affair

Romance *adj* [A] (of a language) having grown out of Latin, the language of ancient Rome: *French and Portuguese are Romance languages.*

Roman Em·pire /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / [*the*] the countries of Europe and the Near East which were ruled from Rome from around 44 BC until around AD 395, when it was split into two. The W Roman Empire lasted until around 476 and the E Roman Empire until the 15th century. The Romans are remembered for being brave, but rather cruel fighting men, who liked to watch men or animals and men fighting to the death as a form of entertainment. In particular they persecuted (PERSECUTE) people of the Christian religion and liked to watch them being killed by lions.

Ro-man-esque /,rɒmə'nesk/ *adj* in the style of building with round arches and thick PILLARS that was common in Western Europe in about the 11th and 12th centuries

Ro-ma-ni-a /rɒ'meɪniə/ also **Rumania, Roumania**— *n* a country in SE Europe bordering on the Black Sea; capital Bucharest; population 23,152,000 (1989). It was formerly a COMMUNIST country, but in 1989 the people killed their leader, Nicolae Ceaușescu, in a violent REBELLION. —**nian** *n, adj*

Roman law /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* [U] CIVIL LAW (2)

Roman nose /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* a nose that curves out near the top

Roman nu-me·ral /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* any of the signs (such as I, II, V, X, L, D) used for numbers in ancient Rome and sometimes now —compare ARABIC NUMERAL (1)

Romano- see WORD FORMATION

Roman road /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / *n* a road built by the Romans. Roman roads are known for being very straight.

ro-man-tic¹ /rɒ'mæntɪk, rə-/ *adj* **1** showing strong feelings of love: *"Tom always sends me red roses on my birthday."* *"How romantic!"* **2** dealing with or suggesting love, adventure: *writers of romantic fiction | The old abbey ruins look very romantic in the moonlight.* **3** sometimes derog showing a lot of imagination or impractical: *She has romantic notions about becoming a famous actress. | middle-class intellectuals with their romantic back-to-nature ideas* **4** [no comp.] (often cap.) (of art, literature, and music) marked by romanticism: *romantic poetry* —**ally** /kli/ *adv*

romantic² *n* **1** a romantic person **2** (often cap.) a writer, painter, etc., whose work shows romanticism, or who was a member of the ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

ro-man-ti-cis-m /rɒ'mæntɪsɪzəm, rə-/ *n* [U] (often cap.) (in art and literature, esp. in the late 18th and early 19th centuries) the quality of admiring feeling rather than thought, and wild natural beauty rather than things made by people: *the romanticism of Wordsworth's poetry* —compare CLASSICISM (1,2), REALISM (2) —**cist** *n*

ro-man-ti-cize also **-cise** *BrE* /rɒ'mæntɪsaɪz, rə-/ *v* [I;T] *derog* to make (something) seem more interesting or ROMANTIC¹ (2, 3) than it really is: *He tends to romanticize his past. | The film gives a rather romanticized picture of life during the war.*

Romantic Move·ment /,ɪ· 'ɔ: / [*the*] (in English and European poetry, literature, art, and music) a group of writers, artists, etc. who followed their feelings and emotions rather than LOGICAL thought or reason, and who preferred wild, natural beauty to things made by man. It first became popular in the late 18th century. —see ROMANTICISM

Ro-ma·ny /'rɒməni||'rɔ:-/ *n* **1** [C] a GIPSY **2** [U] the language of the GIPSY people

Rome /rəʊm/ **1** the capital city of Italy, famous for its art, history, and centres of learning, religion, etc., and for containing the state within which the Pope lives, Vatican City —see also ROMULUS AND REMUS, TREATY OF ROME **2** **Rome was not built in a day** a job cannot be done properly if it is done in a hurry **3** **When in Rome, do as the Romans do** one should follow the customs of the people one is visiting or living with —see also **to fiddle while Rome burns** (FIDDLE)

Ro-me-o /'rəʊmiəʊ/ *n* —**os** *often humor or derog* a ROMANTIC male lover, esp. one who tries to attract all the women he meets in a romantic or sexual way: *the office Romeo | A Romeo solicitor masterminded a £3.8 million mortgage fraud to pay for his mistress and high life.*

Roman

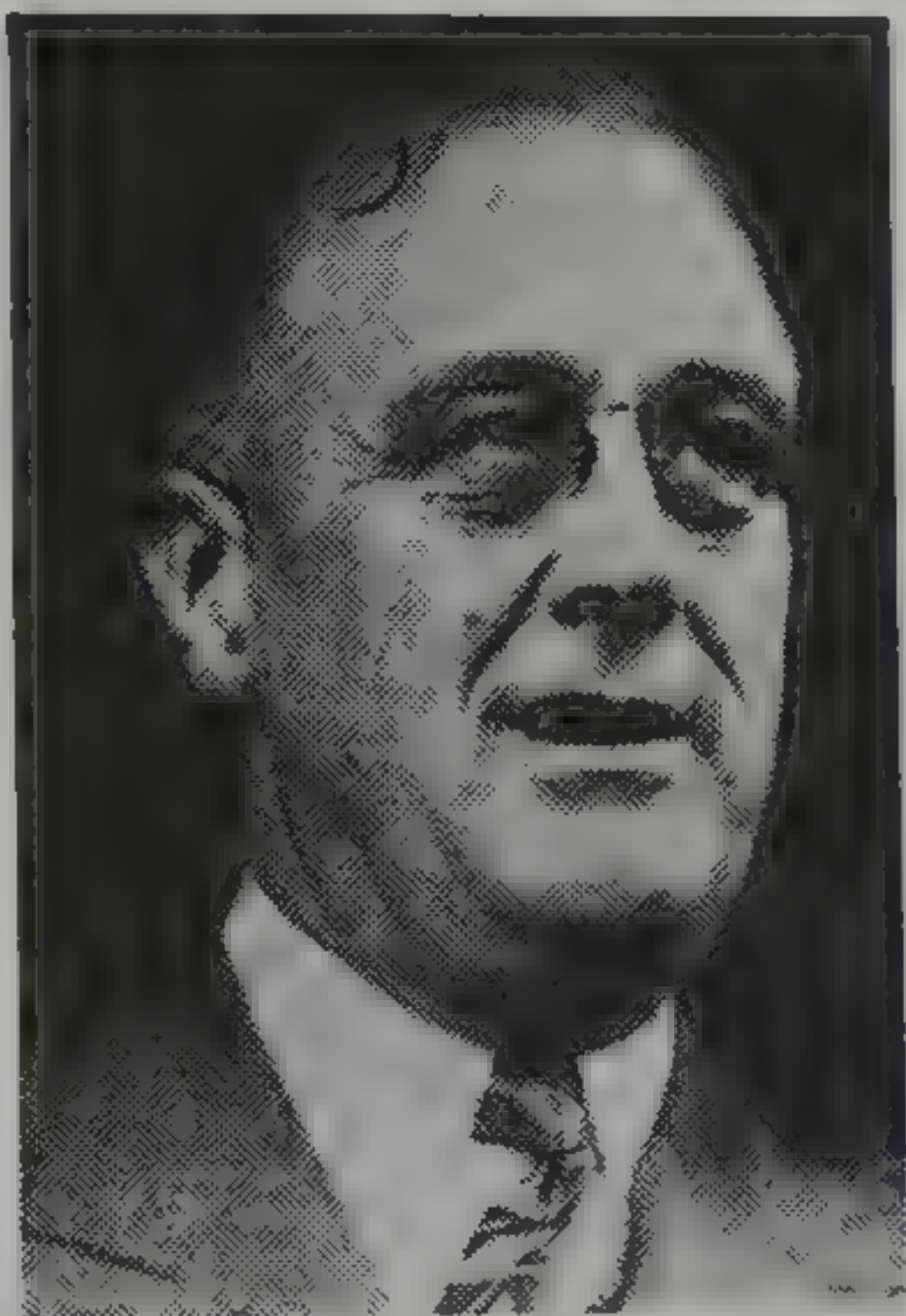


- Romeo and Ju-li-et** /rɒmɪoʊ ˌdʒuːli.ət/ a play by William Shakespeare about the love of two people, Romeo and Juliet, from families who are enemies. They marry secretly, but they are prevented from being together and they both kill themselves. They are seen as typical examples of unfortunate, unhappy lovers. Many lines from the play are well known, esp. "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" which Juliet says while looking down from a BALCONY. —see colour picture on page 1146
- Rom-mel** /'rɒmɪəl/ || 'rɑː-/ , **Er-win** /'ɜːwɪn/ || 'ɜːr-/ (1891–1944) one of Hitler's generals in the Second World War, remembered for his CAMPAIGNS in North Africa and Egypt. He attempted with others to kill Hitler and failed, later taking his own life.
- romp**¹ /rɒmp/ || 'rɑːmp/ *v* [I (ABOUT, AROUND)] 1 to play noisily and roughly with a lot of running and jumping: *We could hear the children romping (about) upstairs.* 2 **romp home** (esp. of an animal) to win a race easily: *The favourite romped home.*
- romp through** *phr v* [T] *BrE infml* to succeed in, quickly and without effort: *She simply romped through her exams.*
- romp**² *n* 1 an occasion of romping 2 *infml* a piece of amusing entertainment with plenty of action: *The new film is an enjoyable romp, but with no intellectual content.*
- Romp-er Room** /'rɒmp.ər/ || 'rɑːmp.ər/ an American television programme of the 1950s and 1960s for young children
- romp-ers** /'rɒmpəz/ || 'rɑːmpəz/ also **romper suit** /'rɒmp.ər suːt/ || 'rɑːmp.ər suːt/ — *n* [P] a one-piece garment for babies combining a top and short trouser-like bottom: *a pair of rompers*
- Rom-u-lus and Re-mus** /'rɒmjʊləs ɒnd 'riːməs/ || 'rɑːm-/ TWIN brothers in an ancient Roman story, nursed by a WOLF and brought up by a SHEPHERD. They started up the city of Rome, and Romulus later killed Remus after a quarrel. —see colour picture on page 423
- Ro-nay** /'rəʊneɪ/ , **E-gon** /'iːɡɒn/ || -ɑːn/ a CHEF and writer of food and restaurant guides. He came to Britain from Hungary in 1946.
- ron-do** /'rɒndəʊ/ || 'rɑːn-/ *n* -dos a piece of music that repeats the main tune several times, and may sometimes form part of a longer musical work such as a CONCERTO
- Ron-nie Scott's** /'rɒni 'skɒts/ || 'rɑːni 'skɑːts/ a London club opened by Ronnie Scott in 1959 and well-known as a place where leading JAZZ musicians have always played —see also RONNIE SCOTT
- Ron-stadt** /'rɒnstæt/ || 'rɑːn-/ , **Lin-da** /'lɪndə/ (1946–) an American singer of many different kinds of popular music
- rönt-gen, Röntgen** /'rɒntɡən/ || 'rentɡən/ *adj, n* ROENTGEN^{1,2}
- rood** /ruːd/ *n* old use or tech a Christian cross or CRUCIFIX, usu. in a church
- rood screen** /'ruːd skriːn/ || 'ruːd skriːn/ *n* a wooden or stone decorative wall in a Christian church which divides the part containing the singers (CHOIR) from the part where the other worshippers sit —see picture at CHURCH
- roof**¹ /ruːf/ || 'ruːf, 'rʊf/ *n* 1 the outside covering on top of a building, closed vehicle, tent, etc.: *The rain's coming in — the roof must be leaking.* | *She carries her sailboard on the roof of her car.* | *roof tiles* | *a tiled/thatched roof* | *She and I can't live under the same roof.* (=in the same house) —compare CEILING (1), and see picture at CAR and HOUSE 2 **a/no 'roof over one's head** somewhere/no-where to live: *I may not have a job, but at least I've got a roof over my head.* 3 **go through the roof** *infml* a (of a price) to rise to a very high level b to express great anger 4 **hit the roof** *AmE infml* to express great anger: *Dad will hit the roof when he finds out you've taken the car without asking first.* 5 **raise the roof** *AmE infml* to complain loudly: *If I don't get my money back on this piece of worthless junk I'll raise the roof!* 6 **the roof of one's mouth** the bony upper part of the inside of the mouth
- roof**² *v* [T (with)] to put a roof on or be a roof for: *a house roofed with slates*
- roof sthg. ↔ in/over** *phr v* [T] to enclose by putting a roof on (an open place): *We're going to roof in the yard to make a garage.*
- roof gar-den** /'ruːf ɡɑːdn/ || 'rʊf ɡɑːdn/ *n* a garden on a flat roof
- roof-ing** /'ruːfɪŋ/ || 'ruːf-, 'rʊf-/ *n* [U] material for making or covering roofs
- roofing felt** /'ruːfɪŋ felt/ || 'rʊfɪŋ felt/ *n* [U] material which is unrolled over supports to make a cheap roof that does not last many years. It is used on flat-roofed additions to houses and on SHEDS.
- roof-less** /'ruːfləs/ || 'ruːf-, 'rʊf-/ *adj* with no roof
- roof rack** /'ruːf ræk/ || 'rʊf ræk/ *n* a metal frame fixed on top of a car roof, for carrying things —see picture at RACK
- roof-top** /'ruːftɒp/ || 'ruːftɑːp, 'rʊf-/ *n* a roof —see also shout something from the rooftops (SHOUT¹)
- rook**¹ /ruːk/ *n* a large black European bird like a CROW
- rook**² also **castle** — *n* (in the game of CHESS) a piece that can move any number of squares but only in a straight line parallel to a side of the board —see picture at CHESS
- rook**³ *v* [T] *infml* to cheat (someone), esp. by charging a very high price or by winning money at card games: *Five pounds for that! You've been rooked!*
- rook-ery** /'ruːkəri/ *n* a collection of rooks' nests, high up in a group of trees
- rook-ie** /'ruːki/ *n* *AmE infml* 1 someone who is new to and has no experience of an activity, esp. a new soldier or policeman: *a rookie cop* 2 a player in his first year of professional sports: *As a rookie he batted 386.*
- room**¹ /ruːm, rʊm/ *n* 1 [C] (often in comb.) a division of a building, which has its own walls, floor, and CEILING and is usu. used for a particular purpose: *There are three rooms on the first floor and two on the top floor.* | *the bathroom/bedroom/dining room* | *a changing room* | *the billiard room* | *I'd like a single/a double room* (=for one/two people in a hotel) *with a bath.* | *I could hear a telephone in the next room/the adjoining room.* | *She locked the bedroom door.* | *Room 107* (=the people in this room in a hotel) *have asked for coffee.* —see picture at LIVING ROOM 2 [U (for)] space that could be filled, or that is enough for the stated purpose: *There's room for three on the back seat.* | *Move along and make room for me!* | *A piano takes up a lot of room.* [+to-v] *There's hardly room to breathe in here!* | (fig.) *He needs room* (=a chance) *to develop his skill as a painter.* —see also ELBOWROOM, LEGROOM; see PLACE¹ (USAGE) 3 [U+for] the need or possibility for something to happen or be done; SCOPE: *His work isn't bad but there's still plenty of room for improvement.* | *I'm afraid the facts leave little room for doubt as to her guilt.* | *They want to reduce taxes, but the bad state of the economy has left them little room for manoeuvre.* —see PLACE¹ (USAGE) 4 [U] the people in a room: *The speaker held the room enthralled.* 5 **no room at the inn** humor no room in a place, esp. one open to the public (from the Bible story in which Mary and Joseph are told that there is no room at the INN in Bethlehem): *We got to the cinema only ten minutes late, and already there was no room at the inn.* 6 **not enough room to swing a cat** *infml* very little space 7 **-roomed** /ruːmd, rʊmd/ having the stated number or size of rooms: *a six-roomed house* —see also ROOMS, COMMON ROOM, DRAWING ROOM, FRONT ROOM — ~ **ful** /fʊl/ *n* [(of)]: *a roomful of noisy children*
- room**² *v* [I+adv/prep] *AmE* to have lodgings; have a room or rooms: *He's rooming at our house/with us.*
- room and board** /'ruːm ɒnd bɔːd/ || 'rʊm ɒnd bɔːd/ *n* [U] *AmE* for BED AND BOARD
- Room at the Top** /'ruːm ɒt ðə tɒp/ || 'rʊm ɒt ðə tɒp/ a NOVEL by John Braine
- room-er** /'ruːmə, 'rʊm-/ *n* *AmE* for LODGER
- rooming house** /'ruːmɪŋ haʊs/ || 'rʊmɪŋ haʊs/ *n* *AmE* a LODGING HOUSE
- room-mate** /'ruːm, meɪt, 'rʊm-/ *n* 1 *BrE* a person, not a member of one's family, with whom one shares a bedroom for a period of time, for example at school or on holiday: *Bill and Ben are roommates.* | *My roommate is very untidy.* 2 *AmE* a person with whom one shares a room, APARTMENT, or house —compare FLATMATE
- rooms** /ruːmz, rʊmz/ *n* [P] old-fash, esp. *BrE* a rented set of rooms in a building; LODGINGS
- room ser-vice** /'ruːm sɜːvɪs/ || 'rʊm sɜːvɪs/ *n* [U] 1 a service provided by a hotel, by which food, drink, etc., are sent up to a person's room: *Does this hotel have/provide room service?* 2 [+sing./pl. v] the people who provide this service: *She called room service and ordered some champagne.*
- Room With a View** /'ruːm wɪð ə vjuː/ || 'rʊm wɪð ə vjuː/ a NOVEL by E M Forster
- room-y** /'ruːmi, 'rʊmi/ *adj* *apprec* with plenty of space inside it; SPACIOUS: *a roomy house/cupboard/car* —**iness** *n* [U]
- Roo-se-velt**¹ /'ruːzəvelt/ , **El-ea-nor** /'elɪnə/ (1884–1962) the

wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She was a writer who was involved in politics and social questions, esp. those concerning women and minorities (MINORITY(2))

Roosevelt², Frank-lin Del-a-no /'fræŋklɪn 'delənəʊ/ (1882–1945) the 32nd president of the US serving from 1933 to 1945. He was president during the Great Depression and was responsible for his country's efforts during the Second World War, during which he was elected for the third and fourth times. —see picture on page 752

Franklin D. Roosevelt



► **CULTURAL NOTE**

Roosevelt is the only president to have served more than two **TERMS** (= periods of time in power). He was a popular and respected president, and many people listened to his "**fireside chats**" on the radio, in which he told people what was happening in the country and what he was doing. He was the first president to appear on television. Roosevelt was often called **FDR**. ◀

Roosevelt³, The-o-dore /'θi:ədɔːr/ (**Teddy**) (1858–1919) the 26th president of the US, from 1901 to 1909. Roosevelt became famous during a war between the US and Spain when he went to Cuba and formed the **ROUGH RIDERS**. He was a popular president and people remember that he had a large **MOUSTACHE** and said things were "bully" when he liked them.

roost¹ /ruːst/ *n* **1** a bar, branch, etc., on which birds settle at night, esp. one for hens in a **HEN HOUSE** **2** **come home to roost** (of a bad or unwise action) to have a bad effect on the doer, esp. after a period of time: *Their lack of financial planning is now coming home to roost.* —see also **rule the roost** (**RULE²**)

roost² *v* [I] (of a bird) to sit and sleep for the night

roost-er /'ruːstə/ *n* esp. AmE for **COCK¹** (1)

root¹ /ruːt/ *n* **1** [often *pl.*] the part of a plant that grows down into the soil in search of food and water: *Pull the plant up by the/its roots.* | *Do you think the new rosebush has taken root?* (=started to grow) | (fig.) *How did these strange ideas take root?* (=become established) —compare **STEM¹** (1) **2** the part of a tooth, hair, fingernail, etc., that holds it to the rest of the body —see picture at **TEETH** **3** [(of)] the fact or condition from which something begins, or by which something is caused; origin: *Let's try to get to the root of this problem.* | *Unhappiness is the root cause of his illness.* | *His illness has its roots in unhappiness.* **4** [(of)] *tech* (in **MATHEMATICS**) a number that when multiplied by itself a stated number of times gives another stated number: *2 is the fourth root of 16* (because $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$) —see also **CUBE ROOT**, **SQUARE ROOT** **5** [(of)] *tech* the base part of a word, from which it originally comes or to which other parts can be added: *The Latin word "videre", meaning "to see", is the root of the English words video, vista, vision, visionary, and revision.* —compare **STEM¹** (4) **6** **root and branch** *fml* (of something bad that must be got rid of) thoroughly: *This evil system must be destroyed root and branch.* —see also **ROOTS**, **GRASS ROOTS**

root² *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) form roots: *Do roses root easily?* **2** [I+adv/prep] also **roo-tle** /'ruːtl/ BrE— (esp. of a pig) to search for food by digging with the nose **3** [I+adv/prep] *infml* to search for something by turning things over: *Who's been rooting about among my papers?* —see also **ROOTED**

root for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] esp. AmE to give strong support to (someone who is competing): *Good luck — we'll all be rooting for you.*

root sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to destroy or get rid of completely (something bad); **ERADICATE**: *This disease is the scourge of Africa, and scientists doubt if it can ever be altogether rooted out.* | *a promise to root out corrupt officials* —see also **UPROOT** **2** *infml* to find by searching: *I'll try and root out something suitable for you to wear.*

root beer /'rʊt · bɜː/ *n* [U] (esp. in the US) a sweet gassy non-alcoholic drink made from the roots of various plants

root bound /'rʊt · bʊnd/ *adj* AmE for **POTBOUND**

root cel-lar /'rʊt · ˌsɛl- / *n* AmE an underground room, usu. away from the house, used for keeping vegetables such as potatoes and **CARROTS**

root crop /'rʊt · ˌkrɒp/ also **root vege-ta-ble** /'rʊt · ˌveɪ- ˌtæ- ˌbəl/ *n* a vegetable grown for its roots, such as potatoes or **CARROTS**

root-ed /'ruːtɪd/ *adj* **1** [F(to)] fixed as if by roots: *He stood rooted to the spot in terror/fascination.* **2** (of an idea, principle, etc.) firmly fixed and unchangeable: (*deep*) *rooted prejudices* **3** [F+in] having as its origin or cause: *an economic policy that is rooted in Marxist theory*

root-less /'ruːtləs/ *adj* having no home or sense of belonging anywhere — **~ness** *n* [U]

roots /ruːts/ *n* [P] **1** (one's connection with and feeling of belonging to) a place, esp. the place in which one was born and brought up: *Her roots are in Scotland where she was born.* | *We've been here a year now, and we're beginning to put down (new) roots.* (=make new friends, join in local activities, etc.) —see also **GRASS ROOTS** **2** (one's connection with and feeling of belonging to) a family: *She's searching for her roots by tracing her family tree.*

Roots an American television programme shown in 1977 which followed the history of a black family from Kunta Kinte, a man born in Africa and caught to be a slave in the US, through his children and their children until the Civil War. The programme, which was based on Alex Haley's book about his family, was on every night for a week and was very popular. Several years later another programme followed the family from the Civil War until the present time.

rope¹ /rəʊp/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a piece of) strong thick cord made by twisting together threads of cotton, **HEMP**, etc.: *They tied their prisoner up with ropes/with a piece of rope.* | *to coil up a rope* —compare **STRING¹** (1) **2** [C+of] a fat twisted string, esp. of the stated jewels: *a rope of pearls* **3** [the+S] hanging as a punishment **4** **give someone enough rope to hang himself/herself** to give a bad or foolish person freedom of action in the hope that they will cause their own ruin or failure in the end **5** **give someone (plenty of) rope** to allow someone (plenty of) freedom to act —see also **ROPES**, **TIGHTROPE**, **jump rope** (**JUMP**), **money for old rope** (**MONEY**)

rope² *v* [T] **1** [+obj+adv/prep] to tie with a rope: *He roped his horse to a nearby tree.* | *Make sure you're properly roped together before you begin to climb.* **2** esp. AmE to catch (an animal) with a rope; **LASSO**

rope sbdy. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] *infml* to persuade or force (esp. someone who is unwilling) to help in one's plans or join an activity: *I've been roped in to help sell the tickets.*

rope sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to separate or enclose (an area) with ropes: *They've roped off one end of the room.*

rope up *phr v* [I] (of two or more mountain climbers) to get fastened together with the same rope: *We'd better rope up for this difficult bit.*

rope lad-der /'rʊt · ˌlæd- / *n* a ladder made of two long ropes connected by cross pieces of wood, rope, or metal

ropes /rəʊps/ *n* [the+P] **1** the rope fence that surrounds a sports ring, esp. a **BOXING ring** **2** *infml* the rules, customs, and ways of operating in some place or activity: *I've been to China before so I know the ropes; can I help you?* | *Shirley's only joined the firm today, so will you show her the ropes?*

rop-y, **ropey** /'rəʊpi/ *adj* BrE *infml* in bad condition or of bad quality: *We stayed in a really ropy hotel.* | *I'm feeling a bit ropy* (=not very well) *this morning.* —**iness** *n* [U]

Roque-fort /'rɒkfoːt/ || 'rəʊkfɔːt/ *n* [U] a strong French cheese with blue lines in it, made from sheep's milk

Ror-schach test /'rɔːʃæk test/ || 'rɔːr- / *n* a method of testing someone's mind and character by making them say what various irregular spots of ink remind them of

ro-sa-ry /'rəʊzəri/ *n* **1** [C] a string of **BEADS** (=small decorative balls) used esp. by Roman Catholics for counting prayers **2** [the] (often *cap.*) a Roman Catholic religious practice that consists of repeating the set of prayers that are counted in this way

rose¹ /rəʊz/ *past tense* of **RISE**

rose² *n* **1** [C] (the usu. red, pink, white, or yellow sweet-smelling flower of) any of various wild or cultivated bushes with strong prickly stems. In Britain, it is thought of as a typically English flower: *He sent her a*

dozen red roses on their anniversary. | a rosebed (=where roses grow) | a rose bush | rose petals —see picture at FLOWER 2 [U] a pale to dark pink colour 3 [C] a circular piece of metal with holes in it that is fitted to the end of a pipe or WATERING CAN for watering gardens 4 a rose by any other name would smell as sweet quote a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. People use the phrase when saying that the nature of a thing is important, not what it is called. 5 a rose is a rose is a rose quote a slightly changed phrase from a poem by Gertrude Stein, often changed further and used when someone is saying that there can only be one kind of a particular thing: *I don't care whether he's unhappy at home—a bully is a bully is a bully, and he shouldn't be allowed to make others miserable!* 6 be not all roses *infml* (of a job, situation, etc.) to include some unpleasant things: *A lot of people envy the royal family, but their life isn't all roses, you know.* 7 come up roses [*usu. in progressive forms*] to happen or develop in the best possible way —see also BED OF ROSES, WARS OF THE ROSES

rose³ *adj* (*usu. in comb.*) (of a colour) pale to dark pink: *rose pink*

Rose, Pete /pi:t/ (1942–) an American BASEBALL player and team manager who in the 1990s was found to have illegally BET (put money on the result of a game) on baseball games

ro-sé /'rəuzei||rəu'zei/ *n* [U] a light pink wine

Rose-anne /rəu'zæn/ a humorous American television show about a WORKING-CLASS family in which the actress Roseanne Arnold appears as the main character

Roseanne



ro-se-ate /'rəuzi:t/ *adj lit* pink: *the roseate hues of the evening sky*

Rose Bowl /'rəu.bɔ:l/ *n* a FOOTBALL (2) game held on January 1st each year in Pasadena, California, between the winners of the two main college CONFERENCES

rose-bud /'rəuzbʌd/ *n* the young tightly rolled-up flower (BUD¹) of a rose before it opens: *She's as pretty as a rosebud.*

rose-coloured /'rəu.kə.ləd/ also **rose-tinted**— *adj* look at/see/view the world through rose-coloured spectacles/glasses *usu. derog* to see the world, life, etc., as better and more pleasant than they really are

rose hip /'rəu.hɪp/ *n* the red fruit of some kinds of rose bush, used in medicines and juices

rose-ma-ry /'rəuzməri||-meri/ *n* [U] a low bush whose sweet-smelling leaves are used in cooking

Rosemary's Ba-by /'rəu.mə.ri||-baɪ/ a NOVEL by American writer Ira Levin, made into a film in 1968, in which a man agrees to let Satan be the father of a baby with his wife

Rose Pa-rade /'rəu.pə.ɹeɪd/ *n* a PARADE held every year in Pasadena, California, on January 1st with many large vehicles covered with flowers, marching bands, and horse riders. The parade is shown on television all over the US.

Roses, War of the see WARS OF THE ROSES

Ro-set-ta Stone /rəu'zetə ,stəʊn/ [*the*] the stone, found in Egypt in 1799, on which was written the passage that provided the key to translating HIEROGLYPHICS

ro-sette /rəu'zet/ *n* 1 a bunch of RIBBONS (=narrow silk bands) made up in the form of a broad flat flower and worn for decoration or as a sign of something: *She won a rosette in the riding competition.* 2 a shape like this in stone or wood, cut on a building as a decoration

rosette



rose-wa-ter /'rəuz,wɔ:tə||-wɔ:-, -wɔ:-/ *n* [U] a liquid made from roses and used for its pleasant smell

rose win-dow /'rəu.wɪn.dəʊ/ *n* a circular decorative window in a church, *usu.* containing a pattern of small divisions spreading out from a centre and filled in with coloured glass

rose-wood /'rəuzwud/ *n* [U] a valuable hard dark red tropical wood, used for making fine furniture

Rosh Ha-sha-nah, **Rosh Hashana** /rɒʃ hə'ʃɑ:nə||, rəʊʃ hə'ʃəʊnə/ *n* the first day of the Jewish new year, a holy day, *usu.* beginning some time in September

Ro-si-cru-cians /,rəuzɪ'kru:ʃənz/ *n* [P] a 17th century secret society whose members claimed that they had SPIRITUAL knowledge from studying science. They still advertise for new members in the US, and are now based in San Jose, California.

Rosie the Riv-et-er /,rəuzi ðə 'rɪvɪtə/ (a name invented to represent) any of the American women who worked in arms or aircraft factories during the Second World War

ros-in¹ /'rɒzɪn||'rɑ:-/ *n* [U] RESIN, *esp.* as used in a solid form on the strings of musical instruments

rosin² *v* [T] to rub with rosin

Ross /rɒs||rɔ:s/, **Bet-sy** /'bet-si/ (1752–1836) the woman who is supposed to have made the first American flag

Ross, Diana (1944–) an American popular music singer who was with the group The Supremes until 1970

Ross and Crom-ar-ty /,rɒs ənd 'krɒməti||,rɔ:s ənd 'krɒ:məti/ a former COUNTY in northern Scotland, now part of Highland REGION

Ros-set-ti /rə'zeti||rəu-/ , **Chris-ti-na Geor-gi-na** /krɪ'sti:nə dʒɔ:'dʒi:nə||-dʒɔ:r-/ (1830–94) an English poet whose poems include *Goblin Market*

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel (1828–82) an English poet and artist who helped to form the PRE-RAPHAELITES

Ros-si-ni /rɒ'si:ni||rəu-/ , **Gio-ac-chi-no** /,dʒəʊə'ki:nəʊ/ (1792–1868) an Italian musician who wrote many OPERAS, including *The Barber of Seville*

ros-ter /'rɒstə||'rɑ:-/ *n* a list of people's names, *esp.* giving the jobs they have to do or the times at which they have to do them: *a duty roster*

ros-trum /'rɒstrəm||'rɑ:-/ *n* -trums or -tra /trə/ a raised place (PLATFORM) for a public speaker, music CONDUCTOR, etc.

ros-y /'rəuzi/ *adj* 1 *apprec* (*esp.* of the human skin) pink and healthy-looking: *rosy cheeks* 2 giving hope, *esp.* without good reason: *He painted a rosy picture of the company's prospects.* (=described them in a very hopeful way, perhaps without good cause) —**iness** *n* [U]

rot¹ /rɒt||rɑ:t/ *v* -tt- [I;T (AWAY, DOWN)] to (cause to) decay by a gradual natural process; (cause to) go bad: *The meat will rot if it isn't kept cool.* | *The damp has rotted (away) the roof beams.* | *rotting vegetables* | *You can rot garden waste down to make a fine compost.* | (fig.) *They left him to rot in prison for twenty years.* | (fig.) *Too much television rots your brain.* —see also ROTTEN

rot² *n* 1 [U] the process of rotting or an area of rotten growth; decay: *an old hollow tree full of rot* —see also DRY ROT 2 [*the+S*] *infml* the process by which everything goes wrong or gets worse: *He thinks the rot set in (=started) when the country was opened up to tourists.* | *It was tourism that really started the rot.* | *Their profits are going down and down, and they don't know how to stop the rot.* 3 [U] *BrE old-fash infml* foolish remarks or ideas: *Don't talk such rot!*

ro-ta /'rəutə/ *n esp. BrE* a list giving details of things which are to be done in a particular order, *esp.* by different people taking turns: *We organized the cleaning on a rota basis.* (=according to a list) | *to draw up a rota*

Ro-tar-i-an /rəu'teəriən/ *n* a member of the Rotary Club

ro-ta-ry /'rəutəri/ *adj* 1 also **rotatory**— (of movement) turning round a fixed point, like a wheel: *the rotary movement of the blades* 2 being or having a moving part that does this: *a rotary lawn mower* | *a rotary clothes line*

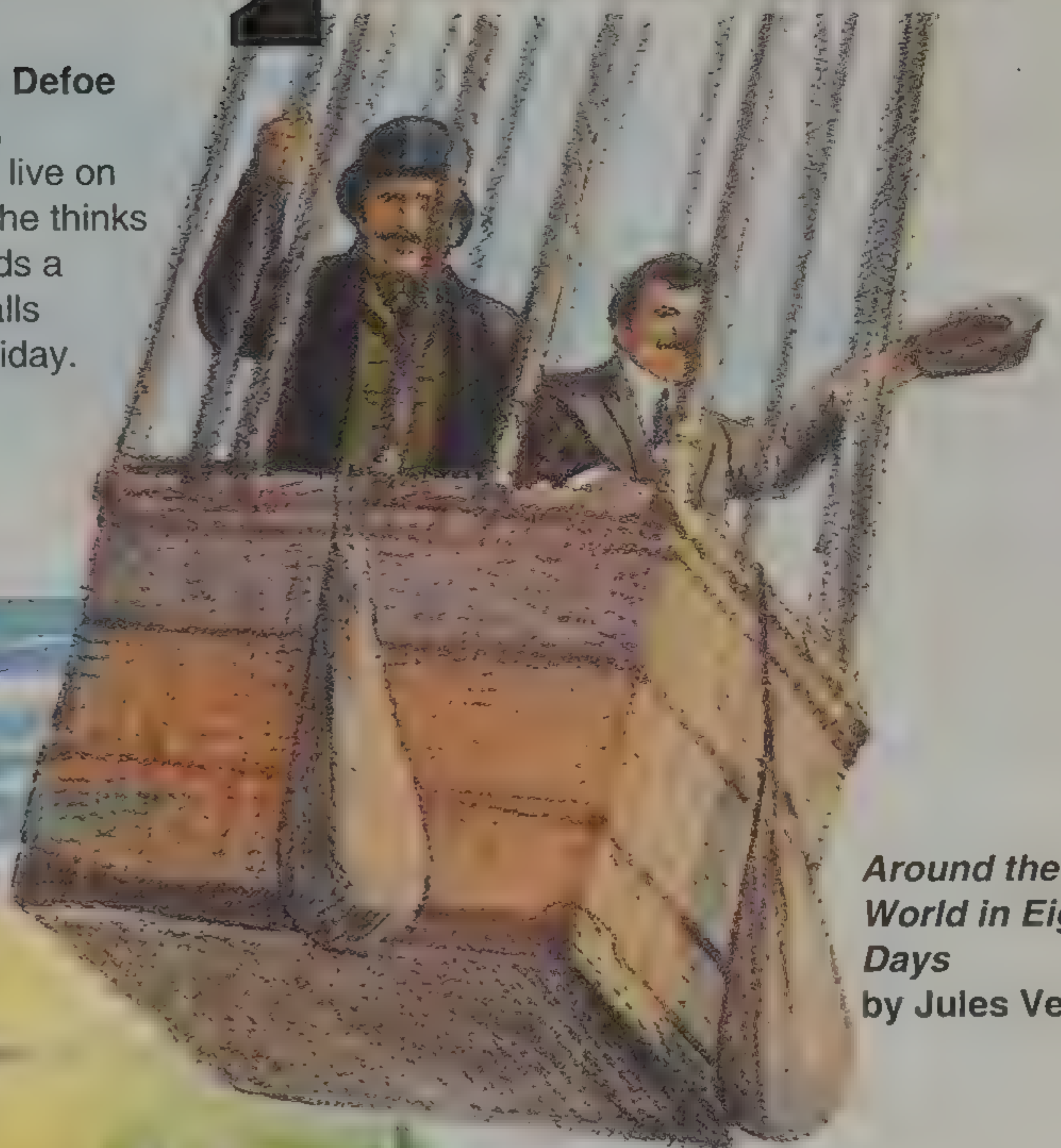
Rotary Club /'rəu.ri||-klʌb/ also **Rotary In-ter-na-tion-al** /,rəu.ri||-klʌb||-nəʃnəl/ [*the*] an organization of men from different businesses in a town who work together for the good of the town, often by raising money for the poor and sick

rotary til-ler /,rəu.ri||-lɪ||-lə/ *n AmE* for DISC HARROW

ro-tate /rəu'teɪt||'rəuteɪt/ *v* [I;T] 1 to (cause to) turn round a fixed point or AXIS: *The Earth rotates once every 24 hours.* | *a rotating mirror* —compare REVOLVE 2 to (cause to) take turns or come round in regular order: *We rotate the crops, sowing wheat one year, sugar beet the*

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

After his ship is destroyed, Robinson Crusoe has to live on a desert island. At first he thinks he is alone, but one day he finds a black man living there who he calls Man Friday because he meets him on a Friday.



Around the World in Eighty Days
by Jules Verne.

The Grapes of Wrath
by John Steinbeck

A poor American family have to leave their land because it is too dry for farming and travel to look for work during the Depression.



Phileas Fogg and his servant Passepartout use many different forms of transport in their attempt to travel around the world in eighty days.

The Adventures of**Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain**

Tom Sawyer and his friend Huckleberry Finn

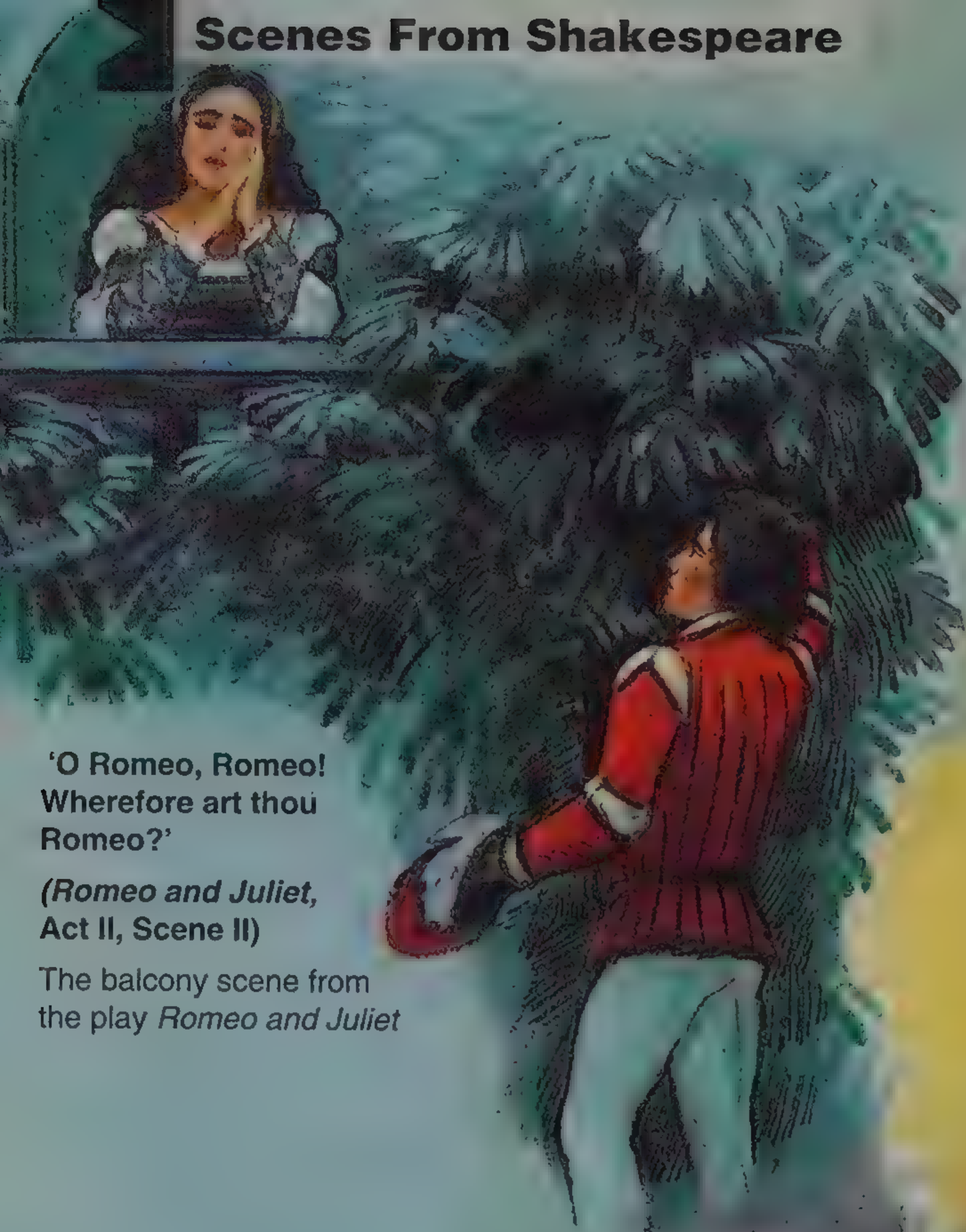
Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Wuthering Heights is the story of the passionate love between Cathy and Heathcliff, set in the wild countryside of the Yorkshire Moors.

Oliver Twist
by Charles Dickens

There is a famous scene where Oliver asks for more food by saying 'Please, sir, I want some more' because he is still hungry.





**'O Romeo, Romeo!
Wherefore art thou
Romeo?'**

**(Romeo and Juliet,
Act II, Scene II)**

The balcony scene from
the play *Romeo and Juliet*



**'Double, double, toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble'**
(Macbeth, Act IV, Scene I)

The three witches who use magic to tell Macbeth what is going
to happen in the future.



'Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more'
(Henry V, Act III, Scene I)

King Henry V leading his soldiers into battle



'Alas, poor Yorick! – I knew him, Horatio'
(Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, Act V, Scene I)
Hamlet picks up the skull of his dead friend
Yorick



**'Friends, Romans, countrymen,
lend me your ears
I come to bury
Caesar, not to praise him'**
(Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene II)

Mark Antony speaking to the crowd after Caesar
has been killed

next, and so on. | *The chairmanship of the department rotates annually.*

ro-ta-tion /rəʊ'teɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the action of rotating: *the rotation of the Earth on its axis* | *The rotation of crops keeps the soil healthy and fertile.* **2** [C] one complete turn round a fixed point **3** **in rotation** (of events) coming round one after the other in regular order: *The seasons follow each other in rotation.*

ro-ta-to-ry /rəʊ'teɪtəri/ || 'rəʊtətɔːri/ *adj* ROTARY (1)

ROTC /'rɒtsi/ || 'rɒt-/ [*the*] *AmE* Reserve Officer Training Corps; a programme run by the American army to train students at colleges and university in military leadership. The army will often pay for the student's education in return for two to four years of service in the army after finishing university. During the 1960s students tried to get ROTC programmes to stop running on CAMPUS, but in the 1980s many students saw the ROTC as a good way of getting an education at a low cost.

rote /rəʊt/ *n* [U] *fml* repeated study using memory rather than understanding. Learning by rote is not fashionable in British schools: *to learn poetry by rote* | *rote-learning*

rot-gut /'rɒtgʌt/ || 'rɒt-/ *n* [U] *sl* strong cheap alcohol that is bad for the stomach

Roth /rɒθ||rɔːθ/, **Philip** (1933–) an American writer, whose most famous book *Portnoy's Complaint* deals humorously with middle-class Jewish life in the US

Roth-ko /'rɒθkəʊ/ || 'rɔːθ-, **Mark** (1903–70) an American painter famous esp. for paintings of squares and RECTANGLES

Roth-man's /'rɒθmənz/ || 'rɔːθ-, 'rɔːθ-/ *tdmk* the name of a type of cigarette

Roths-child /'rɒθs-tʃaɪld/ || 'rɔːθs-, **N M** the London MERCHANT BANK

ro-tis-ser-ie /rəʊ'tɪsəri/ *n* an apparatus for cooking meat by turning it over and over on a bar (SPIT³ (1)) under direct heat

ro-tor /'rəʊtə/ *n* **1** a part of a machine that turns round on a fixed point: *The giant turbine rotors began to turn.* **2** the system of blades that raise a HELICOPTER into the air by turning round and round

Ro-to-root-er /'rəʊtəʊ ,rʊtə/ *tdmk* (an American company which makes) a machine that unblocks pipes and DRAINS by use of a power-driven, quickly turning snake-like tube. Because of the unusual nature of the machine it is often the subject of jokes: *My dentist doesn't use a drill, he uses a Roto-rooter.* | *Clogged drain? Call Roto-rooter!* (advertisement)

ro-to-va-tor /'rəʊtəveɪtə/ *BrE* || **Ro-to-til-ler** /'rəʊtəʊ ,tɪlə/ *AmE*— *n* *tdmk* a tool with blades that turn round to break up esp. soil

rot-ten /'rɒtn/ || 'rɔːtn/ *adj* **1** decayed; gone bad: *rotten eggs/fruit* | *a rotten branch* **2** *infml* nasty, unpleasant, or unsatisfactory: *What rotten weather!* | *Paul's a rotten driver.* | *What a rotten thing to do to her!* **3** **feel rotten** *infml* to feel ill or unhappy: *I feel rotten this morning; it must have been something I ate.* | *I felt rotten about having to sack him, but I had no alternative.* **4** **one rotten apple spoils the barrel** one bad person or thing can have a bad effect on others which are good but which may easily be spoilt **5** **Something is rotten in the state of Denmark** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, often used in speaking of a bad state of affairs in any country: *The number of violent crimes in Britain is on the increase; clearly, something is rotten in the state of Denmark.* — *~ly adv* — *~ness n* [U]

rotten bor-ough /,rɒtən/ || 'rɒtən/ *n* (in Britain before 1832) any of a number of places (BOROUGHs) which elected a Member of Parliament although they had very few voters

rot-ter /'rɒtə/ || 'rɔːt-/ *n* *BrE* *old-fash infml* a worthless or dishonourable person

Rot-ter-dam /'rɒtədəm/ || 'rɔːtə-/ a city in the W Netherlands, one of the world's largest and most modern ports

rott-wei-ler /'rɒtwaɪlə/ || 'rɔːt-/ *n* a German breed of dog which has a large body and head and very strong muscles, used to guard property, people, or (originally) animals. Rottweilers became feared by many people after a series of violent attacks on adults and children in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In Britain rottweilers must now be registered (REGISTER² (1)) and wear a covering

around their mouth when outside to prevent them from biting. —see picture at DOG

ro-tund /rəʊ'tʌnd/ *adj fml or humor* (of a person) fat and round — *~ity n*

ro-tun-da /rəʊ'tʌndə/ *n* a round building or hall, esp. one with a DOME (=rounded bowl-shaped roof)

rou-ble, ruble /'ruːbəl/ *n* (a coin or note worth) the standard unit of money in the former USSR

rou-é /'ruːeɪ/ || 'ruː'eɪ/ *n* *old use* a RAKE³

rouge¹ /ruːʒ/ *n* [U] a red substance used for colouring the cheeks to give a healthy appearance, esp. by women and actors

rouge² *v* [T] to put rouge on (one's face)

rough¹ /rʌf/ *adj* **1** having an uneven surface; not smooth: *The rough road made the car vibrate.* | *A cat's tongue is rough.* | *rough hands* **2** (of weather, the sea, or a sea journey) stormy and violent; not calm: *rough winds* | *We had a very rough crossing to France.* **3** *usu. derog* (esp. of a person or their behaviour) showing a lack of gentleness, good manners, or consideration, and perhaps a readiness to use force or violence: *a rough boy* | *He's a rough-looking character.* | *They complained of rough handling by the police.* | *a rough neighbourhood* (=full of rough people) | *Don't be so rough with that box — it's got eggs in it.* **4** (of a sound) not gentle or tuneful: *a rough voice* **5** done or made without attention to detail or exactness; APPROXIMATE: *a rough translation* | *She did a rough drawing to show me what she meant.* | *Could you give me a rough idea when you'll be back?* (=tell me, without needing to be too exact) | *At a rough guess I'd say he was about 45.* —see also ROUGH PAPER **6** (of food and living conditions) not delicate or comfortable; simple: *Life was rough out in the American West in the last century.* | *a rough country wine* **7** [(on)] *infml* unfortunate and/or unfair: *She's had a very rough time recently.* | *My boss realized I was unprepared for the meeting, and gave me a bit of a rough ride.* (=a difficult time) | *It's a bit rough on* (=unfortunate for) *him, losing his job.* **8** [F] *infml* unwell: *I'm feeling pretty rough; I think I'll go to bed.* **9** **rough and ready** simple and without comfort: *The living conditions in the camp were a bit rough and ready.* **10** **the rough side of one's tongue** *old-fash infml* an act of speaking angrily to someone: *You'll get the rough side of my tongue if you're cheeky again.* —see also ROUGHLY — *~ness n* [U]

rough² *n* **1** [(the)] [U] the uneven ground with long grass on a GOLF course: *I lost my ball in the rough.* —see picture at GOLF **2** [C] *old use* a violent noisy man: *A crowd of young roughs was fighting at the football game.* **3** [C] a quick drawing not showing all details **4** **in rough** in an incomplete, untidy, or undetailed form: *Write it out in rough first and then copy it out neatly.* **5** **take the rough with the smooth** to accept bad things as well as good things without complaining

rough³ *v* **rough it** *infml* to live in a simple and not very comfortable way: *Living in a tent's not for me — I don't like roughing it.*

rough sthg. ↔ **in phr** *v* [T] to put in (a few practice lines in a drawing): *I'll just rough in the shape of the head and you can paint the sky round it.*

rough sthg. ↔ **out phr** *v* [T] to make (a first plan of a drawing or piece of writing): *I'll just rough out the whole picture and you can do the details.*

rough sbdy. ↔ **up phr** *v* [T] *infml* to attack roughly, usu. as a threat

rough⁴ *adv* **1** *BrE* in uncomfortable conditions, esp. out of doors: *When you're a tramp, you get used to sleeping rough.* **2** not in a gentle way; using (too much) force: *Those boys certainly play rough!* —see also ROUGHLY

rough-age /'rʌfɪdʒ/ *n* [U] FIBRE (=string-like vegetable material) contained in food, that does not actually feed the eater, but helps the bowels to work: *Wholemeal bread provides valuable roughage.*

rough-and-tum-ble /,rʌfənˈtʌmbl/ || 'rʌfənˈtʌmbl/ *n* [C;U] (an occasion of) noisy fighting: *The kids were having a bit of a rough-and-tumble when one of them banged his head.* | (fig.) *the rough-and-tumble of politics*

rough-cast /'rʌfkɑːst/ || -kæst/ *n* [U] a rough surface on the outside of a building, made of PLASTER mixed with little stones or broken shells —**roughcast** *adj* [A]

rough di-a-mond /,rʌfˈdaɪənd/ || *BrE* || **diamond in the rough**

AmE— *n* *infml* a person who has a kind and generous nature and/or great ability, but whose outward manner is rather rough.

rough-en /ˈrʌfən/ *v* [I;T] to make or become rough: *Constant washing of clothes had roughened her hands.*

rough-hewn /ˌˈrʌː/ *adj* (of wood or stone) roughly cut; not made smooth: *a wall of rough-hewn blocks*

rough-house¹ /ˈrʌfhaʊs/ *n* [S] *BrE* *old-fash infml* a noisy disorderly fight, not usu. with weapons

roughhouse² *v* [I] *AmE* to play roughly, to WRESTLE: *The children were roughhousing in the living room and knocked over a lamp.*

rough-ly /ˈrʌfli/ *adv* 1 in a rough manner: *He pushed her roughly away.* | “Get out!” he said roughly. 2 about; not exactly: *There were roughly 200 people there.* | *How many people, roughly?* | *Roughly speaking, I’d say 200.* | *The cost of the two systems is roughly equal/roughly the same.*

rough-neck /ˈrʌfnek/ *n* 1 a member of the team of men who make or operate an oil well 2 *infml, esp. AmE* a rough bad-tempered person

rough paper /ˌˈrʌː/ *n* [U] paper (to be) used for making an incomplete or undetailed drawing, piece of writing, etc.

Rough Riders /ˌˈrʌː/ *n* [P] an American CAVALRY group led by Teddy Roosevelt and made up of COWBOYS and RANCHERS which fought in a war against Spain in 1898

rough-shod /ˈrʌfʃɒd/ *adv* see **ride roughshod over** (RIDE¹)

rough sleep-er /ˌˈrʌː/ *n* *BrE* a homeless person who sleeps out on the street

rough stuff /ˌˈrʌː/ *n* [U] *infml* violence; violent behaviour

rou-lette /ruːˈlet/ *n* [U] a game of chance in which a small ball is spun round a moving wheel and falls into a hole marked with a number —see also **RUSSIAN ROULETTE**

Rou-ma-ni-a /ruːˈmeɪniə/ *n* ROMANIA

round¹ /raʊnd/ *adj* 1 shaped like a circle; circular: *a round plate/table* | *The little boy’s eyes grew round with delight.* 2 shaped like a ball; SPHERICAL: *The Earth is round, not flat.* 3 (of a part of the body) fat and curved: *the child’s round red cheeks* 4 [A] (of a number) full; complete: *a round dozen* 5 in **round figures** (of a number) not expressed exactly, but to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, etc., without paying attention to small amounts: *The car cost £9878 — that’s £10,000 in round figures.* —see also **ROUNDLY** — ~ness *n* [U]

round² || usu. **around** *AmE*— *adv* 1 with a circular movement; (as if) spinning in a circle: *The Earth turns round once in 24 hours.* | *The wheels went round and round.* | *His head was spinning round with all the excitement.* | (fig.) *Your birthday will soon come round again.* | (fig.) *This plant flowers all (the) year round.* (=during the whole year) 2 in a circular position or arrangement; surrounding a central point: *The field has a fence all round.* | *The children gathered round to hear the story.* | *The tree trunk is two metres round.* 3 to various places: *They travel round together.* 4 to a particular place: *They invited us round (=to their house) for drinks.* | *He came round (to our place) at 6.00 and we went out together.* 5 all over the place; in or into all parts; everywhere or to everyone in a place: *Hand/Pass round the wine glasses.* | *Let me show you round.* | *A nasty rumour has been going round.* | *Let’s go into the palace and have a look round.* | *There weren’t enough books to go round.* (=enough for each person to have one) 6 so as to face the other way or the stated way: *Turn the picture round to face the wall.* | *He’s got his hat on the wrong way round.* (=with the back of the hat in front) 7 (of a journey) not going the straightest way: *Let’s walk/drive round by the park instead of going straight home.* 8 **round about** *infml* a little bit more or less than; about: *It’ll cost you round about £300.* —see also **ROUNDAABOUT** 9 **the other/opposite way round** in the opposite order: *The dog didn’t bite the boy. It was the other way round — the boy bit the dog!* —see also **ALL ROUND**

round³ || usu. **around** *AmE*— *prep* 1 with a circular movement about (a central point): *The Earth goes round the sun.* | *Drake sailed (right/all) round the world and came back to England.* 2 in a circular position on all or some sides of (a central point): *We sat round the table.* | *Tie the belt round your waist.* | *Put something round your shoul-*

ders — it’s cold. 3 into all parts of; all over (a place): *Have a look round the shop.* | *Let me show you round the castle.* | *They danced round and round the room.* | *We travelled round Europe.* 4 to or at the other side of, not going straight but changing direction: *He disappeared round the corner.* | *The car’s round the back of the house.* 5 in the neighbourhood of; near (a place): *Do you live round here?* 6 a little bit more or less than; about: *It’ll cost somewhere round £50.* 7 *BrE* nonstandard to; round to: *I’m just going round the shops for some sugar.* —see also **round the bend** (BEND²), **around/round the clock** (CLOCK¹)

▷ **USAGE** Some people use **round** (*adv* and *prep*) or **about** (*adv*) while others, especially Americans, use **around**. People who use both often make a difference between **round** for “circular movement” or “measurement”: *He turned round.* | *a tree five feet round*, and **around** meaning “in a general area” or “moving to different places”: *He lives somewhere around.* | *I was just walking around.* Compare: *The spaceship travelled right round the world in 40 minutes* (=in one complete circle) and *I travelled all around the world for a few years* (=all over the place).◀

round⁴ *n* 1 [(of)] a number or set of connected events: *We hope the next round of arms-limitation talks will be more successful.* | *Life was one continual round of parties.* 2 a regular journey to a number of houses, offices, etc., in a town: *She does a paper round.* (=delivers newspapers to houses) —see also **MILK ROUND**, **ROUNDS**, **ROUNDSMAN** 3 a number of esp. alcoholic drinks bought for everyone present: *to buy a round of drinks* | *What’ll you have? It’s my round.* (=I’m paying) 4 (in **GOLF**) a complete game including all the holes 5 a (in **BOXING**, **WRESTLING**, etc.) any of the periods of fighting in a match, separated by short rests: *He was knocked out in the second round.* | *a 12-round contest* b (in tennis, football, etc.) any of the stages in a competition: *Becker will play Cash in the next round of the US Open Championships.* 6 one single shot from a gun: *He fired round after round.* | *I’ve only got two rounds (of ammunition) left.* (=bullets for two shots) 7 [+of] a long burst: *Let’s have a big round of applause for that very fine performance!* 8 *esp. BrE* a SANDWICH made with two whole pieces of bread: *I’ll have two rounds of cheese sandwiches.* b one whole piece of bread: *two rounds of toast* 9 [(of)] something that has a circular shape: *Put a little round of butter on each steak.* 10 a song for three or four singers, in which each sings the same tune, one starting a line after another has just finished it 11 **the/one’s daily round** the/one’s duties that must be done every day: *the daily round of cooking and cleaning* —see also **THEATRE IN THE ROUND**

round⁵ *v* [T] 1 to go round: *She rounded the corner at top speed.* | *We rounded the cape and sailed for home.* 2 to make round: *He rounded his lips as if about to whistle.*

round sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (to)] to reduce (an exact figure) to the nearest whole number: *If your income is £12,386.46, it will be rounded down to £12,386 for tax purposes.* —compare **ROUND off** (2), **ROUND up** (2)

round sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] 1 [(by, with)] to end suitably and satisfactorily: *We rounded off the meal with some brandy.* 2 to change (an exact figure) into the nearest whole number —compare **ROUND down**, **ROUND up** (2)

round on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to turn and attack, angrily and unexpectedly: *The lion suddenly rounded on the hunters.* | *Then for no reason she rounded on me and started screaming.*

round out *phr v* 1 [T] (**round sthg.** ↔ **out**) to complete: *He rounded out his education by spending a year in Paris.* 2 [I] (*esp.* of a woman) to become rounder in shape, esp. in an attractive way

round sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] 1 to gather or bring together (scattered things, people, or animals, esp. cattle): *The shepherd’s dog rounded up some stray sheep.* | *Round up a few friends to help you!* | *Two of the thieves were arrested outside the bank, and the rest of the gang was rounded up later.* —see also **ROUNDUP** 2 [(to)] to increase (an exact figure) to the next highest whole number —compare **ROUND down**, **ROUND off** (2)

round-a-bout¹ /ˈraʊndəbaʊt/ *n* 1 *BrE* || **traffic circle** *AmE*— a place where three or more roads meet, which has a usu. circular area in the middle round which the traffic must go, rather than straight across 2 *BrE* for

MERRY-GO-ROUND —see also **what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts** (SWING²)

roundabout² *adj* indirect; not in the shortest possible way: *We took a roundabout route to avoid the floods.* | *a roundabout way of saying something*

round brack-et /ɪ· ˈrʌndbræk/ *n* *BrE* for **BRACKET**¹ (2c)

round-ed /ˈraʊndɪd/ *adj* round, esp. pleasingly curved: *her pleasantly rounded figure* —see also **WELL-ROUNDED** (1)

round-el /ˈraʊndl/ *n* **1** a small raised circle cut into wood or stone as a decoration **2** a coloured circle showing the nationality of a military aircraft

round-ers /ˈraʊndəz||-ərz/ *n* [U] a British ball game like **BASEBALL**, usu. played by children, in which a player hits the ball and then runs round the edge of a square area

Round-head /ˈraʊndhed/ *n* (usu. cap.) a supporter of Parliament against the King in the English Civil War in the 17th century. The Roundheads fought against the **CAVALIERS**. —see pictures at **CAVALIER** and at **CROMWELL**

round-ish /ˈraʊndɪʃ/ *adj* fairly or rather round in shape

round-ly /ˈraʊndli/ *adv* *fml* **1** completely: *We were roundly defeated.* **2** strongly and forcefully: *The new tax law has been roundly condemned by the Opposition.*

round rob-in /ɪ· ˈrʌndrɒb/ *n* **1** a letter expressing opinions or complaints, signed by many people and sent in to an official body **2** *AmE* a competition in which each player or team plays against each of the other players or teams

rounds /raʊndz/ *n* **1** the tour or usual visits one makes as part of one's job: *The doctor is doing his rounds/out on his rounds.* (=visiting sick people) **2** *go the rounds* *BrE* || *do the rounds* *AmE* *infml* (esp. of news or illness) to be passed on; **CIRCULATE**: *There's a very nasty kind of flu going the rounds this winter.*

round-shoul-dered /ɪ· ˈrʌndʃəldəd/ *adj* *derog* having shoulders that are bent forwards or slope downwards

rounds-man /ˈraʊndzmən/ *n* -**men** /mən/ *esp. BrE* a man employed by a shop to go round delivering goods to people's houses: *the baker's roundsman*

round-ta-ble /ɪ· ˈrʌntəbəl/ *adj* [A] at which all the people present meet in an equal way and have equal importance: *a round-table discussion/conference*

Round Table [*the*] **1** the table at which King Arthur and his **KNIGHTS** sat, according to old stories. As it was round, all the places at it were equal. —see **ARTHURIAN LEGEND** **2** an organization for young business and **PROFESSIONAL** people which holds meetings and does work for the community, eg. **CHARITY** work

round-the-clock /ɪ· ˈrʌndðəklɒk/ *adj* [A] done or happening all the time, both day and night: *The police kept a round-the-clock watch on the house.* —see also **around/round the clock** (**CLOCK**¹)

round-trip /ɪ· ˈrʌndtrɪp/ *adj* *AmE* (of a ticket or its cost) for a round trip; **RETURN**³: *a round-trip ticket*

round trip *n* a journey to a place and back again: *The round trip took just over an hour.*

round-up /ˈraʊndʌp/ *n* a gathering or bringing together of scattered things, animals, or people: *There's been a police roundup of all the suspects.* | *a cattle roundup* (=by men on horses) | *There'll be a news roundup* (=giving the main points of the news) *before the station goes off the air.* —see also **ROUND UP** (1)

rouse /raʊz/ *v* [T] **1** [(from, out of)] *fml* to waken: *The noise roused me (from/out of a deep sleep).* **2** [(from, out of, to)] to make more active, interested, or excited: *The speaker tried to rouse his listeners to action/from their apathy.* | *I warn you, he's dangerous when he's roused!* (=when something makes him angry) —see also **AROUSE**

rous-ing /ˈraʊzɪŋ/ *adj* that makes people excited and eager; **STIRRING**: *a rousing speech about freedom* | *a rousing chorus of "Rule Britannia"*

Rous-seau /ˈruːsəʊ||ruːˈsəʊ/, **Jean Jacques** /ʒɒn ʒæk||ʒɑːn ʒɑːk/ (1712–78) a French writer and thinker who introduced the phrase “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”, later to become the **MOTTO** of the French Revolution, in his book *The Social Contract*. He is also remembered for writing about the **NOBLE SAVAGE**

Rous-sos /ˈruːsɒs||-səʊs/, **Dem-is** /ˈdemɪs/ (1947–) a Greek singer, esp. popular in the 1970s. He is remembered esp. for his rather high voice and for his large size.

roust /raʊst/ *v* [T] to get someone out of a place: *Go roust your brother out of bed.*

rous-ta-bout /ˈraʊstəbaʊt/ *n* *AmE* a man who does heavy unskilled work, esp. a at a seaport or in an oil field, or b in a **CIRCUS**

rout¹ /raʊt/ *n* a complete defeat and disorderly running away: *the total rout of the enemy forces* | *We put the enemy to rout.* (=beat them and drove them away) | (fig.) *The match was an utter rout; we lost 15–0.*

rout² *v* [T] to defeat completely and drive away: *They routed the enemy.* | (fig.) *Our party was routed at the election.*

rout sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (of)] *infml* to force or drive (someone) out of somewhere they ought not to be: *Harry's been in the bath long enough — go and rout him out!*

route¹ /ruːt||ruːt, raʊt/ *n* a chosen direction or line of travel between one place and another: *What's the shortest route from London to Cambridge?* | *The school is on a bus route.* (=buses go past and stop) | *to plan one's route* | *the busy Transatlantic air routes* | (fig.) *the surest route to disaster/to success* —see also **EN ROUTE**, **RED ROUTE**, **SNOW ROUTE**, **TRADE ROUTE**

route² *v* [T+obj+adv/prep] to send by a particular route: *They routed the goods through Italy/by way of Germany.*

route march /ɪ· ˈrʌtmɑːtʃ/ *n* a long march by soldiers in training

rou-tine¹ /ruːˈtiːn/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) regular and habitual way of working or doing things: *The security men changed their usual routine and collected the money at a different time.* | *She longed to escape from the same old familiar routine.* | *the stultifying routine of housework* **2** [C] a set of steps learnt and practised by a dancer for public performance: *a dance routine* **3** [C] a set of instructions given to a computer to carry out a particular operation

rou-tine² /ruːˈtiːn/ *adj* **1** regular; according to what is always habitually done; not special: *It's just a routine medical examination, nothing to get worried about.* | *routine maintenance* | *routine police inquiries* **2** *derog* not unusual or exciting: *a dull, routine job* —~ly *adv*

roux /ruː/ *n* **roux** /ruːz/ [C;U] (a) liquid mixture of fat and flour used for thickening soups and **SAUCES**

rove /rəʊv/ *v* [I;T] *esp. lit* to wander; move continually (around): *His eyes roved about the crowded room, looking for the mysterious stranger.* | *a roving reporter*

rov-er /ˈrəʊvə/ *n* *lit* a wanderer

Rover *tdmk* a British company that makes good quality cars

roving com-mis-sion /ɪ· ˈrʌvɪŋkəmɪʃən/ *n* **1** *tech* permission, given to a person who is inquiring (officially) into a matter, to travel when necessary **2** *infml* a job or piece of work that takes one to many places

roving eye /ɪ· ˈrʌvɪ/ *n* [S] *infml* sexual interests that pass quickly from one person to another: *Her husband's got a roving eye.*

row¹ /rəʊ/ *n* **1** [(of)] a neat line (of people or things) side by side: *a row of houses* | *a row of cups on a shelf* | *We sat in the third row of the stalls.* (=in a theatre, etc.) | *The children stood in a row.* | *Plant the seedlings in parallel rows.* **2** *in a row* one after the other without a break: *She won the competition three times in a row.*

row² /rəʊ/ *v* [I;T] **1** to move (a boat) through the water with **OARS** (=long poles with flat ends): *Can you row (a boat)?* | *a rowing club* —see **BOAT**¹ (**USAGE**) **2** [(+obj)+adv/prep] to travel or carry in this way: *We rowed down to the island.* | *He rowed us across the lake.* —~er *n*

row³ /rəʊ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a trip or journey in a **ROWING BOAT**

row⁴ /raʊ/ *n* *BrE* *infml* **1** [C] a noisy quarrel: *He's always having rows with his wife.* **b** a public argument in which charges of wrongdoing and opposing views are exchanged; a **DISPUTE** or **CONTROVERSY**: *The Prime Minister is at the centre of a new row concerning government secrets.* | *Her speech provoked a bitter row.* **2** [S] *derog* a noise: *Stop making such a row; I can't sleep!*

row⁵ /raʊ/ *v* [I (about, with)] *BrE* *infml* to quarrel, often noisily or violently: *They were rowing about money, as usual.*

row-an /ˈrəʊən, ˈraʊən/ *n* (the bright red berry of) a small tree of the rose family

row-dy /ˈraʊdi/ *adj* *infml* *derog* noisy and rough: *We don't let Timothy play with those rowdy children.* | *a rowdy party* —dily *adv* —diness *n* [U]

row-dy-is-m /ˈraʊdi-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] *derog* rowdy behaviour: *rowdysism at football matches*

row house /'rəʊ haʊs/ *n* *AmE* for TERRACED HOUSE — see picture at HOUSE and see colour picture on page 161

rowing boat /'rəʊɪŋ bəʊt/ *BrE* || also **row-boat** /'rəʊbəʊt/ *esp. AmE* — *n* a small boat that is moved through the water with OARS (=long poles with flat ends)

Row-land /'rəʊlənd/, **Tiny** the CHIEF EXECUTIVE of Lonrho, a British based MULTINATIONAL company with interests in trade in every part of the world

row-lock /'rɒlək||'rɔː-; *not tech* 'rəʊlək||-lək/ *BrE* || **oarlock** *AmE* — *n* a pin or U-shaped rest on the side of a boat, for holding an OAR in place

Rown-tree Mack-in-tosh /,raʊntriː 'mækɪntɒʃ||-tɔːʃ/ *tdmk* one of Britain's largest makers of sweets, chocolates, etc.

Rox-burgh-shire /'rɒksbərəʃəʃ||'rɔːk-/ a former COUNTY in SE Scotland, now part of the Borders REGION

roy-al¹ /'rɔɪəl/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] 1 (*often cap.*) for, belonging to, or connected with a king or queen: *the royal family* | *The new law has received the royal assent.* (=the approval of the king or queen) — compare REGAL 2 splendid; MAGNIFICENT: *They gave us a right royal* (=very splendid) *welcome.* — see also BATTLE ROYAL — ~ly *adv*

royal² *n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml* a member of the Royal Family: *The papers are full of stories about the royals.*

Royal A-cad-e-my /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ also **Royal Academy of Arts** /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] 1 the British society of artists whose members can use the title RA after their name. They run a POSTGRADUATE school for artists and hold many EXHIBITIONS. Anyone can put forward a piece of art for their Summer Exhibition each year but only the best paintings are shown. There is fierce competition to take part. 2 the building in London where their work is shown

Royal A-cad-e-my of Dra-mat-ic Arts /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ see RADA

Royal Academy of Mu-sic /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] an important London music college

Royal Air-craft Es-tab-lish-ment /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ see RAE

Royal Air Force /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ see RAF

the Royal Albert Hall



Royal Al-bert Hall /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] see ALBERT HALL

Royal and An-cient /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ also **R and A** — [the] the organization which decides on the rules of GOLF for most countries except the US. Its full name is the **Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.**

Royal An-gli-a Re-gi-ment /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] a REGIMENT (a large division of men) in the British army

Royal As-cot /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ a four-day horse-racing event at Ascot, England, every June. It is one of the most important race meetings in Britain and members of the royal family always attend. One of the days is called Ladies' Day and some of the women like to wear unusual and usu. big hats. It is popular esp. with UPPER-CLASS people.

royal as-sent /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] the signing of a law by the British king or queen, the final stage of its passing through Parliament. The signing is purely formal and has no connection with the king or queen's personal wishes.: *The Channel Tunnel bill today received the royal assent.*

Royal Bal-let /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] Britain's national BALLET company, which includes many dancers of international quality, and has its base at Covent Garden in London

Royal Bank of Scot-land /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] one of the main Scottish banks which is now often also found in England. Like other Scottish banks, it prints its own banknotes.

royal blue /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ *adj* of a purplish-blue colour

Royal Brit-ish Le-gion /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] see BRITISH LEGION

Royal Ca-na-di-an Mount-ed Police /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ (abbrev. RCMP) [the] a Canadian police force — see also MOUNTIE

Royal Col-lege of Art /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ also **RCA** — [the] a leading London art college

Royal College of Mu-sic /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] a London school for musicians who show the promise of great ability

Royal College of Nurs-es /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] an association of British nurses which represents them when this is necessary

royal com-mis-sion /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ *n* a group of people chosen to look carefully at a subject which the British government thinks may need new laws, and to make suggestions: *the royal commission on the future of broadcasting*

Royal Court /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] a London theatre known for its production of serious new plays

Royal Doul-ton /,rɔɪəl 'dɔʊltən/ *tdmk* a type of high quality fine CHINA (2) made in England

Royal En-clos-ure /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] a special area at Ascot, open to ticket holders only

the royal family



royal fam-i-ly /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] 1 the family of the king or queen of a country 2 (*often caps.*) (in Britain) Queen Elizabeth II and her family. There are many colourful ceremonies involving the Royal Family and they visit towns and institutions. A lot of British people are very fond of the Royal Family and like to read about them. The popular newspapers often write about them.

Royal Fes-ti-val Hall /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] see FESTIVAL HALL

royal flush /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ *n* (in card games) a set of cards dealt to a person which are the five highest cards in one of the four different types (SUITS¹ (2))

Royal Green Jackets /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ also **Green Jackets** — [the] a REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army

Royal Green-wich Ob-ser-va-to-ry /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] an OBSERVATORY which sets the time in Britain, and the TIME ZONES in the world — see also GREENWICH MEAN TIME

Royal High-land Re-gi-ment /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] see BLACK WATCH

Royal High-ness /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ *n* (used for speaking to or about a royal person, esp. a prince or princess): *Good morning, Your Royal Highness.* | *Their Royal Highnesses have graciously consented to attend.*

Royal Horse Guards /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ also **The Blues** — [the+P] a former REGIMENT (=large division of men) of the British army, called The Blues because of their blue uniform, which joined with the Royal Dragoons in 1969 to form the Blues and Royals — see also HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

Royal Hor-ti-cul-tur-al So-ci-e-ty /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] a British society of garden lovers which arranges the CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW each year

Royal In-sti-tution /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] a British institution which encourages science

Royal I-rish Ran-gers /,rɔɪəl 'æd-ə-mi/ [the] an Irish REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army. In 1992 they joined with the UDR to become the **Royal Irish Regiment.**

roy-al-ist /'rɔɪəlɪst/ *adj, n* (*sometimes cap.*) (typical of) someone who supports a king or queen, or who believes

that a country should be ruled by kings and queens: *an ardent royalist*

royal jel·ly /,rɔɪ 'dʒɛli/ *n* [U] a substance produced by bees which, it is claimed, has the effect of increasing health and helping humans to live longer. It is used in cosmetics (COSMETIC¹) and eaten.

Royal Mail /,rɔɪ 'meɪl/ [*the*] the official name of the part of the POST OFFICE which deals with delivering letters, parcels, and selling stamps

Royal Marines /,rɔɪ 'maɪnz/ [*the*] the part of the British army trained to fight at sea

Royal Mile /,rɔɪ 'maɪl/ [*the*] a line of streets in Edinburgh which runs from the Castle to Holyrood House, a royal palace

Royal Mil·i·ta·ry A·cad·e·my /,rɔɪ 'mɪlɪtəri 'ækədi/ [*the*] see SANDHURST

Royal Mint /,rɔɪ 'mɪnt/ [*the*] **1** a British government department which is responsible for making paper money and coins **2** the building where this work is done

Royal Na·tion·al In·sti·tute for the Blind /,rɔɪ 'næʃənəl 'ɪnstɪtjuːt fɔː ðə blaɪnd/ also **RNIB** — [*the*] an association which helps blind people in Britain

Royal National Institute for the Deaf /,rɔɪ 'næʃənəl 'ɪnstɪtjuːt fɔː ðə diːf/ [*the*] a British organization which gives help and support to people who cannot hear

Royal National Life-boat In·sti·tu·tion /,rɔɪ 'næʃənəl 'laɪf bɔːt 'ɪnstɪtjuːʃən/ [*the*] see RNLI

Royal Na·val Col·lege /,rɔɪ 'nævəl 'kɒlɪdʒ/ also **Britannia Royal Naval College** — [*the*] a training college at Dartmouth, SW England, where young men in the Royal Navy learn to be officers

Royal Na·vy /,rɔɪ 'naɪ/ [*the*] the men and ships of Britain's armed forces at sea —compare MERCHANT NAVY

Royal Op·e·ra House /,rɔɪ 'ɒpərə haʊs/ [*the*] one of the two important London theatres where OPERAS and BALLET are performed, often called **Covent Garden** because it is in Covent Garden

Royal Pa·vil·ion /,rɔɪ 'pævɪlɪən/ [*the*] a building in an exciting and unusual ORIENTAL style built in Brighton in 1817 for the Prince of Wales

Royal Phil·har·mon·ic Or·ches·tra /,rɔɪ 'fɪlhə'mɒnɪk 'ɔːrkestrə/ also **RPO**, **Royal Philharmonic** — [*the*] a leading London ORCHESTRA

royal pre·rog·a·tive /,rɔɪ 'prɒɡətɪv/ *n* [*the*] (often caps.) (any of) the special rights of a king or queen: *In Britain it is the royal prerogative to order Parliament to meet.*

Royal Re·gi·ment of Fu·si·liers /,rɔɪ 'regɪmənt əv fuːsɪliəz/ [*the*] a REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army

Royal Scot /,rɔɪ 'skɒt/ [*the*] the most famous British steam train

Royal Scots /,rɔɪ 'skɒts/ [*the*] a Scottish REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army. It is the oldest regiment.

Royal Scots Dra·goon Guards /,rɔɪ 'skɒts drə'ɡuːn gɑːrds/ [*the*+P] a part of the British army which is involved with ARMoured vehicles

Royal Shakes·peare Com·pa·ny /,rɔɪ 'ʃeɪkspiə kəmˈpəni/ [*the*] a British theatre company of high quality actors who perform works by Shakespeare and other writers; also called the **RSC**

Royal Show /,rɔɪ 'ʃəʊ/ [*the*] a yearly British farming show

Royal So·ci·e·ty /,rɔɪ 'səʊsɪəti/ [*the*] Britain's oldest scientific society, whose members (FELLOWS) are elected because of the high standard of their work in their particular fields

Royal Society for the Pro·tec·tion of Birds /,rɔɪ 'səʊsɪəti fɔː ðə prə'tekʃən əv bɜːdz/ [*the*] see RSPB

Royal Society of Arts /,rɔɪ 'səʊsɪəti əv ɑːts/ [*the*] see RSA

Royal Tour·na·ment /,rɔɪ 'tɔːnəmənt/ [*the*] a yearly public show produced by the British army, air force, and navy in which they show their skills with displays of GYMNASICS etc.

roy·al·ty /'rɔɪəlti/ *n* **1** [U+sing./pl. v] also **the Royals** — members of the Royal Family: *The flag is only raised when royalty is/are present.* **2** [C] a payment made to the writer of a book, piece of music, etc., out of the money made from selling that work: *The writer gets a 10% royalty on each copy (sold) of his book.*

Royal Ul·ster Con·stab·u·la·ry /,rɔɪ 'ʊlstə kən'stabʊləri/ [*the*] see RUC

Royal Va·ri·e·ty Show /,rɔɪ 'væriəti 'ʃəʊ/ [*the*] a yearly show of

singing, dancing, etc. in the London Palladium, which raises money for CHARITY and at which members of the British royal family are present

royal we /,rɔɪ 'weɪ/ *n* [*the*] sometimes *humor* the use of we (by a king or queen) when it really means I

Royal Welsh Fu·si·liers /,rɔɪ 'welʃ fuːsɪliəz/ [*the*] a Welsh REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army

Royal Worces·ter /,rɔɪ 'wɜːstə/ a type of high quality fine CHINA (2) made in England

Royal Yacht /,rɔɪ 'jɑːt/ [*the*] a boat belonging to the British Royal Family. They sometimes travel in it when they make official visits to other countries. It is called **Britannia**.

Roy Ro·gers /,rɔɪ 'rɒdʒəz/ also **Shirley Temple** — *n* [C;U] (in the US) (a glass of) a drink for children made of LEMONADE and GRENADINE (a sweet juice) with a CHERRY floating in it

rozz·er /'rɒzə/ *n* BrE *old-fash sl* a policeman

RP /,ɑː 'piː/ *n* [U] Received Pronunciation; the form of British English pronunciation which is used by many educated people in every part of Britain and is typical of many people in the South of England. It is thought of as a standard form and is often used by the BBC, esp. by NEWSREADERS. —see also BBC ENGLISH, OXFORD ENGLISH

rpm /,ɑː 'piː/ *n* abbrev. for: revolutions per minute; a measure of the speed of an apparatus that goes round or of an engine: *Play this record at 33¹/₃ rpm.*

RPO /,ɑː 'piː/ *n* abbrev. for ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RSA /,ɑː 'es 'eɪ/ [*the*] Royal Society of Arts; a British association which encourages education for the arts and trade. It sets examinations in English as a Foreign Language together with the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

RSI /,ɑː 'es 'aɪ/ abbrev. for: REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY

RSPB /,ɑː 'es 'piː 'biː/ [*the*] Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; an organization (CHARITY) in Britain which tries to protect birds

RSPCA /,ɑː 'es 'piː 'siː 'eɪ/ [*the*] Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; an organization (a CHARITY) in Britain which is concerned with the protection of animals

RS232 /,ɑː 'es 'tuː θrɪz 'tuː/ also **RS232C** /,ɑː 'es 'tuː θrɪz 'tuː/ — *tech* (the name usually used for) the standard connector between a computer and a MODEM or between a computer and various kinds of equipment that are connected to it. It is a PLUG with (holes for) 25 pins, arranged in two rows, one with 13 pins and one with 12 pins.

RSV /,ɑː 'es 'viː/ *n* abbrev. for: REVISED STANDARD VERSION

RSVP /,ɑː 'es 'viː 'piː/ abbrev. for: répondez s'il vous plaît (Fr); please reply (written on invitations)

Rt Hon written abbrev. for Right Honourable —see RIGHT⁵ (6)

rub¹ /rʌb/ *v* -bb- **1** [I;T] to press one's hand or another surface against (something), usu. with a repeated up-and-down or round-and-round movement: *He rubbed his itchy skin. | I rubbed the window with a cloth. | She rubbed the rude words off the board. | I accidentally rubbed against the wet paint, and ruined my jacket.* **2** [T (TOGETHER)] to slide (two surfaces) against each other in this way: *He rubbed his hands (together) with pleasure/to warm them.* **3** [I (against, on)] (of a surface) to slide up and down or round and round, esp. so as to cause pain or damage: *My shoe's rubbing. (=against my heel, toe, etc.) | This tyre seems badly worn; it must be rubbing against/on something.* **4** [T+obj+adv/prep] to put on, over, or into a surface by rubbing: *Rub salt into the meat before cooking it. | Rub the ointment in well. | Spray the polish onto the table and rub it well in with a soft cloth.* **5** [T+obj+adv/prep] to make or put in the stated condition by rubbing: *Rub your hair dry with this cloth. | You've rubbed a hole in the elbow of your coat.* **6** **rub it in** *infml* to keep talking about something that another person wants to forget, such as a past mistake: *"I told you it would never work like that." "All right — there's no need to rub it in!"* **7** **rub salt into the/someone's wound(s)** to make someone's suffering or annoyance even worse **8** **rub shoulders with** *infml* to meet socially and treat as equals (esp. people of a different type or social class): *In my job I rub shoulders with all sorts of interesting people.* **9** **rub**

someone's nose in it/in the dirt *infml* to punish someone by reminding them of the bad results of their actions
10 rub someone (up) the wrong way *infml* to annoy someone, esp. by dealing with them without proper care or thought: **ANTAGONIZE**

rub along *phr v* [I] *BrE infml* **1** [(by, on)] to continue to live or to do what is necessary, but with difficulty; **SURVIVE**: *We haven't got much money, but we rub along somehow.* **2** [(with, TOGETHER)] to have a fairly good relationship; remain quite friendly: *My boss and I seem to rub along (together) all right.*

rub down *phr v* **1** [I;T (=rub sbdy./sthg. ↔ down)] to dry (oneself or an animal) by rubbing: *She rubbed her horse down after her ride.* **2** [T] (rub sthg. ↔ down) to clean or make smooth (a surface) by rubbing: *Rub the door down before you paint it.* —see also **RUBDOWN**

rub off *phr v* [I (on, onto)] to come off a surface by rubbing: *The paint marks will rub off quite easily.* | (fig.) *I hope that some of her good qualities will rub off onto you.* (=that you will get some of her good qualities as a result of working or spending time with her)

rub out *phr v* **1** [I;T (=rub sthg. ↔ out)] *BrE* || **erase** *AmE*— to remove (esp. pencil writing) or be removed with a **RUBBER**¹ (2): *He pencilled in his name, then changed his mind and rubbed it out.* | *These marks won't rub out properly.* **2** [T] (rub sbdy. ↔ out) *AmE sl* to murder

rub² *n* **1** [S] *infml* an act of rubbing: *Give the table a good rub with this cloth.* **2** **there's the rub** **there's the** difficulty or cause of trouble: *We need to borrow more money to save the company, but there's the rub: no one will lend us any.* **3 the rub of the green** *BrE infml* (the influence of) a piece of good or bad luck

rub-ber¹ /'rʌbə/ *n* **1** [U] a substance, made either naturally from the juice of a tropical tree or artificially, which keeps out water and springs back into position when stretched: *Tyres are made of rubber.* | *a rubber plantation* | *a rubber ball* **2** [C] *esp. BrE* a piece of rubber used for removing pencil marks; **ERASER** **3** [C] *esp. BrE* || **eraser** *AmE*— a piece of material used for rubbing surfaces to clean them: *a board rubber* (=for cleaning **BLACKBOARDS**) **4** [C] *infml* for **CONDOM** **5** [C *usu. pl.*] *AmE* for **GALOSH**—see also **RUBBERY** **6** (in **BASEBALL**) the piece of material placed where the **PITCHER** stands: *Niekro consults with the catcher before going back to the rubber and preparing for the next pitch.*

rubber² *n* a competition, esp. in cards or international cricket, which usu. consists of an odd number of games: *Shall we have/play a few rubbers of bridge after dinner?*

rubber band /'rʌbə bænd/ also **elastic band**— *n* a thin circular piece of rubber used for fastening things together: *Put a rubber band round this bunch of flowers.*

rubber boot /'rʌbə bʊt/ *n* *AmE* for a **WELLINGTON**—see picture at **SHOE**

rubber ce-ment /'rʌbə sement/ *n* [U] *AmE* a very sticky kind of glue which dries slowly

rubber din-ghy /'rʌbə dɪŋgi/ *n* a small rubber boat blown up with air—see picture at **DINGHY**

rub-ber-neck /'rʌbə nek/ *v* [I] *AmE infml derog* **1** to look about or watch something with too much interest, esp. an accident **2** to go on a pleasure trip as one of a group with a guide —*er n*: *The accident on the 405 has been moved to the side, but rubbernecks are still causing traffic to slow down.* (people looking at the accident as they drive past are slowing the traffic).

rubber plant /'rʌbə plɑnt/ *n* a decorative house plant with large shiny dark green leaves

rubber-stamp /'rʌbə stɑmp/ *v* [T] *often derog* to give official approval to (a decision) without really thinking about it: *The divorce proceedings are a formality; the court will just rubber-stamp them.*

rubber stamp *n* **1** a small object used for printing the date, the name of an organization, etc., consisting of a piece of rubber on a handle, with raised letters or figures, which is pressed onto an **INKPAD** and then onto the printing surface **2** *usu. derog* a person or body that acts only to make official the decisions already made by another

rubber tree /'rʌbə tri/ *n* a tropical tree from which rubber is obtained

rub-ber-y /'rʌbə ri/ *adj* strong and slightly elastic like rubber: *The meat's a bit rubbery — you cooked it too long!*

rub-bing /'rʌbɪŋ/ *n* a copy of a raised shape or pattern in

stone or metal (esp. brass), made by rubbing a piece of paper laid over the shape with **WAX**, chalk, etc.: *She did a brass rubbing of the medieval knight in the old church.*

rubbing al-co-hol /'rʌbɪŋ ˌælˌkɒl/ *n* [U] *AmE* for **SURGICAL SPIRIT**

rub-bish¹ /'rʌbɪʃ/ *n* [U] *BrE* **1** also **garbage, trash** *AmE*— things or material of no use or value that will be or have been thrown away: *The dustmen come on Thursdays to collect the rubbish.* | *Throw it on the rubbish heap.* | *household rubbish* **2** something worthless that does not deserve serious attention; nonsense: *He's talking a load of rubbish.* | *That new TV show is absolute rubbish.*

rubbish² *v* [T] *infml, esp. BrE & AustrE* to say that (someone or something) is bad or worthless; severely **CRITICIZE**: *The government's plan was rubbished by the opposition parties.*

rubbish bin /'rʌbɪʃ bɪn/ *BrE* || **trash can, garbage can** *AmE*— *n* **1** a **DUSTBIN** **2** a container for rubbish

rub-bish-y /'rʌbɪʃi/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* worthless and silly; **TRASHY**: *a rubbishy love story*

rub-ble /'rʌbəl/ *n* [U] (a mass of) broken stones or bricks, esp. from a building that has been destroyed: *After the bombing her house was just a heap of rubble.*

rub-down /'rʌbdʌʊn/ also **rub down** /rʌb ˈdaʊn/ *n* **1** an act of rubbing something down (**RUB DOWN**): *Give the wall a rubdown with some sandpaper.* **2** *AmE* a **MASSAGE**, esp. after exercise

rube /ru:b/ *n* *AmE derog sl* a person, usu. from the country, who does not understand the ways of the world and lacks taste: *Those rubes wouldn't know a good show if they saw one!*

ru-bel-la /ru:'belə/ *n* [U] *med* for **GERMAN MEASLES**

Ru-bens /'ru:bənz/, **Peter Paul** (1577–1640) a Flemish artist regarded as one of the great artists, responsible for over 2000 paintings

Ru-bi-con /'ru:bɪkən, -kən||-kɑ:n/ *n* see **cross the Rubicon** (**CROSS**² (12))

ru-bi-cund /'ru:bɪkənd/ *adj fml or humor* (of a person or esp. their face) fat, red, and healthy-looking: *a jolly, rubicund farmer*

Ru-bik's Cube /'ru:bɪks, ˌkju:z/ also **Rubik Cube**— *n* *tdmk* a toy consisting of a **CUBE** with nine smaller coloured cubes forming each face. The small cubes must be turned so that each face of the large cube shows one colour only. **Rubik's Cube** was a very popular toy in the 1970s.

ru-ble /'ru:bəl/ *n* a **ROUBLE**

ru-bric /'ru:bɪk/ *n fml* a set of rules or explanations on an examination paper, in a book, etc. which is printed in a different way to the main body of the writing and which tells one what to do

ru-by /'ru:bi/ *n* **1** [C] a deep red precious stone **2** [U] the colour of this stone

Ruby, Jack (1911–67) the man who killed Lee Harvy Oswald, who is believed to have killed President John F Kennedy. Ruby's killing of Oswald led some people to believe that there was a **CONSPIRACY** (=secret plan) to kill Kennedy and that Oswald was shot so that he could not say anything about it.

RUC /rʌz ju: 'sɪz|| ˌɑ:r-/ [*the*] **Royal Ulster Constabulary**; the police force of Northern Ireland

ruck¹ /rʌk/ *n* *BrE* **1** [*the*] the ordinary level of life: *She dreamed of getting out of the (common) ruck and becoming famous as a singer.* **2** [S] (esp. in the game of **RUGBY**) a loose disordered group of players

ruck² *v*

ruck up *phr v* [I] (of cloth) to form unwanted folds: *Your coat has rucked up at the back.*

ruck-sack /'rʌksæk/ *esp. BrE* || *usu. backpack* *AmE*— *n* a bag fastened to the shoulders and usu. fixed to a light frame, used by climbers and walkers for carrying their belongings

ruck-us /'rʌkəs/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml, esp. AmE* a noisy argument or a noisy confused situation; **RUMPUS**

ruc-tion /'rʌkfən/ also **ructions** *pl.*— *n* [S] *infml, esp. BrE* noisy complaints and anger: *There'll be ructions if you don't give him some more chocolate!*

rud-der /'rʌdə/ *n* a wooden or metal blade at the back of a ship or aircraft that is swung from side to side to control the direction in which it moves—see picture at

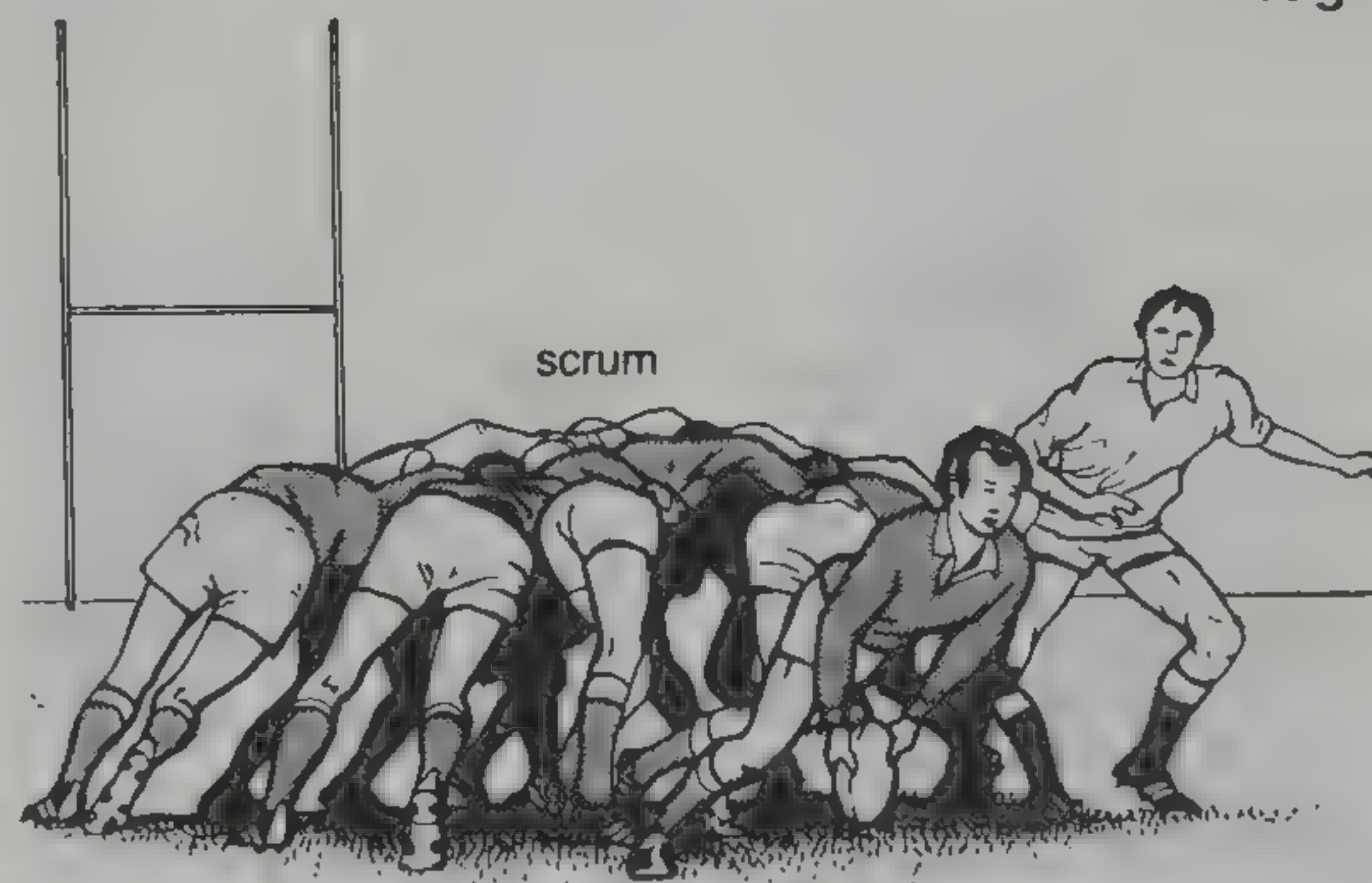
Rugby

There are two forms of rugby football played in Britain, rugby union and rugby league.

Rugby union is played by AMATEURS (=they are not paid). There are 15 players on each team. Rugby union is played internationally between many countries including Australia, Fiji, France, South Africa, Argentina, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and New Zealand. In Britain it is played especially in public schools.

Rugby league is a professional game, played mainly in the N of England (and in Australia). There are 13 players on each team, and the rules are slightly different from rugby union. It is thought to be a rough, hard game.

rugby



AIRCRAFT and YACHT — ~less *adj*: (fig., *fml*) *The death of our leader has left the country rudderless.*

Rud-dles /'rʌdlz/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a type of British beer

rud-dy¹ /'rʌdi/ *adj* 1 *apprec* (of the face) pink and healthy-looking: *the children's ruddy cheeks* 2 *esp. lit* red or reddish: *The fire cast a ruddy glow over the city.* 3 [A] *BrE euph* (used to add force, esp. to an expression of anger) BLOODY²: *You're standing on my ruddy foot!* —**diness** *n* [U]

ruddy² *adv* *BrE euph* BLOODY²: *There's no need to be so ruddy rude!*

rude /ruːd/ *adj* 1 (of a person or their behaviour) not at all polite; intentionally bad-mannered; offensive: *It's rude to tell someone you don't like them.* | *Don't be so rude to your father!* | *It was very rude of her to leave without telling us.* | *a rude remark/letter* —see IMPOLITE (USAGE) 2 (used esp. by or to children) concerned with sex: *She told a rather rude joke, and everyone looked embarrassed.* 3 [A] sudden and unpleasant: *We had a rude shock when we discovered who he really was.* | *The staff had a rude awakening when they learned that the company was in serious trouble.* 4 [A] *old use or lit* simple and roughly made: *a rude hut* 5 *in rude health* *fml* or *pomp* very healthy — ~ness *n* [U]

rude-ly /'ruːdli/ *adv* 1 in a RUDE (1) way: *"Go away!" he said rudely.* 2 *old use or lit* in a RUDE (4) way: *a rudely constructed shelter*

ru-di-men-ta-ry /,ruːdɪ'mentəri/ *adj fml* 1 (of facts, knowledge, etc.) at the simplest level; coming or learnt first: *I have only a rudimentary knowledge/grasp of chemistry.* 2 simple and incomplete; PRIMITIVE: *Their road-building equipment is fairly rudimentary.* | *a rudimentary airfield* 3 *esp. tech* small and not fully usable, either because not yet developed or because of gradual disappearance: *Ostriches have rudimentary wings.*

ru-di-ments /'ruːdɪmənts/ *n* [*the*+P+of] the simplest parts (of a subject), learnt at the very beginning: *It didn't take me long to pick up/learn the rudiments of the language.*

Ru-dolph, the Red-nosed Rein-deer /,ruːdɒlf ðə ,red nəʊzd 'reɪndɪə/ ,ruːdɒlf- a character in a children's song, a REINDEER called Rudolph who had a shiny red nose. The other reindeer thought his nose looked silly, but in spite of this Santa Claus chose (CHOOSE) him to pull his SLEDGE. In the US he is a character in a children's television CARTOON and has a nose that lights up. —see colour picture on page 1212

rue /ruː/ *v* [T] *esp. old use or humor* to be very sorry about (something one has done or not done); REGRET: *He'll rue the day* (=will always be sorry that) *he married her.*

rue-ful /'ruːfəl/ *adj* feeling or showing that one is sorry about something: *"If only I hadn't agreed to do it," he thought with a rueful smile.* — ~ly *adv*

ruff /rʌf/ *n* 1 a stiff wheel-shaped white collar worn in Europe in the 16th century 2 a ring of hair or feathers round the neck of an animal or bird

ruf-fi-an /'rʌfiən/ *n* *old-fash derog* an unpleasant violent man: *a gang of ruffians* — ~ly *adj*

ruf-ple¹ /'rʌfəl/ *v* [T] 1 [(UP)] to move the smooth surface of; make uneven: *He fondly ruffled the child's hair.* | *The*

bird ruffled (up) its feathers. 2 to trouble or upset, esp. causing a loss of confidence: *Her taunts ruffled his pride/composure.* | *Some of the audience were shouting at him, and you could see he was getting a bit ruffled.* 3 *ruffle someone's feathers infml* to make someone slightly angry or upset

ruffle² *n* a band of fine cloth sewn in folds as a decoration round the edge of something, esp. at the neck or wrists of a garment; FRILL

rug /rʌg/ *n* 1 a thick usu. woollen mat, smaller than a CARPET, used to cover the floor or for decoration: *a rug in front of the fire* | *a hearthrug* —compare MAT¹ (1) —see picture at LIVING ROOM 2 *esp. BrE* a large warm woollen covering to wrap round oneself, esp. when travelling or camping: *Put this rug over your knees.* 3 *humor, esp. AmE for* TOUPEE 4 *pull the rug (out) from under infml* to suddenly stop supporting or helping

rug-by /'rʌgbɪ/ also **rugby foot-ball** /,rʌgbɪ'fʊtbɔːl/ *fml n* [U] (sometimes *cap.*) a type of football in which the ball can be handled, played with an OVAL (=egg-shaped) ball by two teams of either 13 players (Rugby League which is played by people who are paid to play rugby as their job) or 15 players (Rugby Union which is a non-professional game and has slightly different rules) —see picture on page 884

Rugby a town in central England best known for the PUBLIC SCHOOL (Rugby School) where rugby football was first played

rugby shirt /'rʌgbɪ ,ʃɪrt/ *n* a shirt, usu. with wide bands of two different colours worn by rugby football players and also as a fashion

rug-ged /'rʌgɪd/ *adj* 1 having a rough uneven surface: *rugged hills* | *rugged terrain* 2 strongly built; STURDY: *You need a fairly rugged vehicle for crossing the desert.* | (fig.) *She admired his rugged good looks.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

rug-ger /'rʌgə/ *n* [U] Rugby Union football. Many people think of this word as UPPER CLASS or used only in the British PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ru-in¹ /'ruːn/ *n* 1 [U] (something that causes) complete failure or loss of one's money, position, moral standards, etc.; DOWNFALL: *His rashness led ultimately to his ruin.* | *With the collapse of grain prices the small farmers are on the brink of (financial) ruin.* | *The country is going to rack and ruin.* 2 [U] a condition of destruction and decay: *The ancient temple had fallen into ruin.* 3 [C] also **ruins** *pl.* — the remains of a building that has fallen down or been (partly) destroyed: *There's an interesting old ruin at the top of that hill.* | *We picked our way through the ruins of the bombed building.* 4 *in ruins* (of a building) ruined: *The castle now lies in ruins.* | (fig.) *His life/career is in ruins.* —see also MOTHER'S RUIN

ruin² *v* [T] 1 to destroy or spoil (completely): *an ancient ruined city* | *The rain ruined my painting/our holiday/her hairstyle.* | *You'll ruin your chances of the job if you wear that shirt to the interview!* | *disclosures that ruined her reputation* 2 to cause total loss of money to: *I was (financially) ruined by that law suit.* See picture on page 1154

ru-in-a-tion /,ruːnɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* [U] (the cause of) being ruined: *You'll be the ruination of me, spending all that money!*

ru-in-ous /'ruːnəs/ *adj* causing or likely to cause



destruction or total loss of money: *The cost will be ruinous.* | *a ruinous war* — ~ly adv: *ruinously expensive*

rule¹ /ru:l/ *n* 1 [C] a an official or accepted principle or order which guides behaviour, says how things are to be done, etc.: *It's against the rules to handle the ball in football.* | *You must obey/observe the rules.* | *There's a penalty if you break the rules.* | *the rules of tennis* | *the club rules* [+that] *We have a rule that the loser of the game buys everyone a drink.* | *I get so annoyed by all these petty rules and regulations.* | *You're not really allowed to do that, but perhaps on this occasion we can bend/stretch the rules.* (=break the rules slightly) **b** the usual way that something happens: *the rules of grammar* | *Snow here in April is the exception, not the rule.* (=is unusual) | *As a rule* (=usually) *I get home by seven o'clock.* 2 [U] a period or way of ruling: *The country prospered under her wise rule.* | *Our nation is under foreign rule.* (=governed by foreigners) | *Everyone is subject to the rule of law.* | *mob rule* 3 [C] a RULER (2): *a two-foot rule* —see also GOLDEN RULE, GROUND RULE, HOME RULE, QUEENSBERRY RULES, RULE OF THUMB, SLIDE RULE, **work to rule** (WORK²)

rule² *v* 1 [I (over); T] to control or be the person in charge of (a country, people, etc.): *Alexander the Great ruled (over) a large empire.* 2 [T] to have a controlling influence over: *Don't let the desire for money rule your life.* | *He let his heart rule his head.* (=made decisions according to his feelings rather than his judgment) | *Be ruled by me* (=take my advice); *don't agree to do it.* 3 [I+adv/prep; T] (esp. in law) to give an official decision (on): *It is up to the courts to rule on this matter.* | *The court has ruled in favour of the sacked employee.* [+that] *The judge ruled that she must pay the money back.* [+obj+adj/adv/prep] *The judge ruled him out of order/in contempt of court.* | *The company's behaviour has been ruled unlawful.* —see also RULING¹ 4 [T] to draw (a line) using a ruler or similar straight edge 5 ...rules OK a phrase used with names esp. of football teams or GANG'S of youths, usu. written on walls etc. as GRAFFITI and meaning that the team/gang mentioned is considered to be the best by its supporters/members: *Arsenal rules OK.* | *Gelderder Boot Boys rule OK.* 6 **rule the roost** *infml* to be in charge: *It's his wife who really rules the roost in that house.* 7 **rule someone with a rod of iron/with an iron hand** to govern (esp. a group) in a very severe way

rule sthg./sbdy. ↔ out *phr v* [T] 1 to say that (something or someone) is not under consideration as a possibility: *The police have ruled out foul play.* | *We can't rule out the possibility that she was murdered by her husband.* 2 to make it impossible for (something) to happen, (someone) to do something, etc.: *Rain ruled out further play.* | *An ankle injury ruled him out for the big match.*

rule-book /'ru:lbu:k/ *n* 1 [C] a book of rules, esp. one given to workers on a job 2 [the+S] the set of all the rules of a particular activity: *He always goes by (=obeys) the rulebook.*

Rule Bri-tan-nia /,rɪˈbrɪtənɪə/ a song about Britain's command of the seas in former years, sung on PATRIOTIC occasions in the belief that Britain is still great: *Thousands of people had gathered in the Mall and sung Rule Britannia.*

ruled /ru:ld/ *adj* (of paper) having parallel lines drawn on it

rule of thumb /,rɪl ɒv ðʌmb/ *n* [C;U] a principle or method based on practical sense and experience rather than exact rules or calculations: *As a rough rule of thumb, each £1000 you borrow will cost you £10 a month in repayments.*

ru-ler /'ru:lə/ *n* 1 a person who rules 2 a long narrow

ruins

flat piece of wood, plastic, or metal with straight edges, which is marked with INCHES or centimetres and used for measuring things or for drawing straight lines: *a 12-inch ruler* —compare TAPE MEASURE, and see picture at MATHEMATICS

ru-ling¹ /'ru:lɪŋ/ *n* [(on)] an official decision, esp. of a court: *We're anxiously awaiting the court's ruling on this matter.* [+that] *The judge gave a ruling that they should pay all the money back.* —see also RULE²

ruling² *adj* [A] most powerful; in control: *the ruling classes* | *the ruling party in the national assembly* | *His garden is his ruling passion.* (=main interest in life)

rum¹ /rʌm/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) a strong alcoholic drink made from the juice of the SUGARCANE plant

► **CULTURAL NOTE** Rum is the TRADITIONAL drink of sailors, and is associated esp. with PIRATES, who are often shown drinking rum in stories. ◀

rum² *adj* -mm- *old-fash infml*, esp. BrE unusual; strange

Ru-ma-ni-a /ru:'meɪniə/ ROMANIA

rum-ba /'rʌmbə/ *n* (the music for) a popular dance originally from Cuba

rum-ble¹ /'rʌmbəl/ *v* 1 [I] to make or move with a deep rolling sound: *The thunder/The big guns rumbled in the distance.* | *The heavy cart rumbled down the street.* | *I'm hungry — my stomach's rumbling.* 2 [T] BrE *infml* to find out or make known the true facts about (esp. a dishonest person or activity): *We've been rumbled; someone must have told the police.*

rumble² *n* 1 [S] a rumbling sound: *a rumble of thunder* 2 [C] AmE *old fash sl* a street fight

rum-bling /'rʌmblɪŋ/ *n* 1 [S] a rumbling sound 2 [C usu. pl.] widespread unofficial talk or complaint: *rumblings of dissent/discontent*

rum-bus-tious /rʌm'bʌstɪəs/ *adj infml*, esp. BrE noisy, lively, and cheerful: *The new film is a rumbustious farce that all the family will enjoy.*

ru-mi-nant /'ru:mɪnənt/ *n, adj* (an animal) that RUMINATES (2): *The cow is a ruminant.*

ru-mi-nate /'ru:mɪneɪt/ *v* [I] 1 *fml* (of a person) to think deeply and repeatedly; PONDER: *He ruminated over/on the problem.* 2 *tech* (of cattle, deer, etc.) to bring back food from the stomach and bite it over and over again —**nation** /,ru:mɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

ru-mi-na-tive /'ru:mɪnətɪv/ -neɪ-/ *adj* (of a person or their behaviour) seeming thoughtful: *a ruminative frown* — ~ly adv

rum-mage¹ /'rʌmɪdʒ/ *v* [I+adv/prep] *infml* to turn things over and look into all the corners while trying to find something, esp. causing disorder: *Who's been rummaging (about) through my papers?*

rummage² *n infml* 1 [S (ABOUT, AROUND)] an act of rummaging: *I'll have a good rummage (around) and see what I can find.* 2 [U] esp. AmE old clothes and other things found by rummaging about

rummage sale /'rʌmɪdʒ saɪl/ *n* AmE for JUMBLE SALE

rummy /'rʌmɪ/ *n* [U] a simple card game for two or more players

ru-mour BrE || **rumor** AmE /'ru:mə/ *n* 1 [U] unofficial news or information, perhaps untrue, which is spread from person to person; HEARSAY: *The whole article was based on rumour.* | **Rumour has it** (=people are saying) *that Jean's getting married again.* 2 [C (about, of)] a story or opinion based on rumour, which may or may not be true: *All sorts of rumours are going round the office about him and his secretary.* | *His illness led to rumours of an early election.* [+that] *There's a rumour circulating (=being spread) that the factory's going to shut down.* —compare GOSSIP¹

ru-moured BrE || **rumored** AmE /'ru:məd/ -ərd/ *adj* reported unofficially: *The rumoured marriage between the prince and the dancer did not in fact take place.* [F+to-v] *He is rumoured to have left the country.* [+that] *It's rumoured that there'll be an election this year.*

ru-mour-mon-ger /'ru:mə'mʌŋgə/ -məŋ-, -məŋ-/ *n* derog a person who spreads rumours

rump /rʌmp/ *n* 1 the part of an animal at the back just above the legs: *She ordered a juicy rump steak.* (=cut from this part of a cow) 2 *humor* the part of the body one sits on; BOTTOM 3 the remaining small, often

worthless part of something that used to be larger, such as a public body or organization: *After the election the party was reduced to a rump.*

Rum-pel-stilt-skin /ˌrʌmpəlˈstɪltskɪn/ a character in a fairy story of the same name by the brothers Grimm. Rumpelstiltskin teaches a young girl how to spin STRAW into gold for the king and demands her first child as a reward. She becomes queen, but forgets her promise. Rumpelstiltskin gives her three days to discover his name. A servant happens to hear him saying his name, and when the girl tells him what it is, he destroys himself in his anger.

rum-ple /ˈrʌmpəl/ *v* [T] to disarrange (hair, clothes, etc.); make untidy: *We could see from the rumpled sheets that the bed had been slept in.*

rum-pus /ˈrʌmpəs/ *n* [S] *infml* a noisy angry argument or disagreement: *They're bound to kick up (=make) a rumpus about all this damage.*

rumpus room /ˈrʌmpəs ruːm/ *n* *AmE* a room, usu. below ground level in a house, used for active games and parties

run /rʌn/ *v* **ran** /ræn/, **run** /rʌn/, *present participle running*
 ■ to move fast on foot 1 [I] (of people and some animals) to move on one's legs at a speed faster than walking: *I had to run to catch the bus.* | *The children came running when she called them.* | *The insect ran up my leg.* | *The little boy ran off to get his brother.* | *He's got a gun!* **Run for it/Run for your lives!** (=to save yourselves) 2 [T] a to move (a distance) by running: *He ran a mile in four minutes.* b to do or complete (as if) by running: *My son often runs errands for me.* (=goes on a short journey to get something) | (fig.) *The illness/rioting ran its course.* (=started, developed, and ended in the expected way) 3 [T] a to take part in (a race) by running: *Ovett ran a fine race but only finished second.* b to cause (an animal) to take part in a race: *We won't run this horse in any more races this season.* c to cause (a race) to happen: *The Derby will be run at three o'clock.* —see also ALSO-RAN ■ to move or travel in some other way 4 [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) move quickly or freely: *The car ran downhill out of control/ran off the road/ran into a tree.* | *An alarming thought kept running through my mind.* | *A shudder ran through his body as he died.* | *He ran his fingers through his hair in confusion.* | *Run the videotape back to the point where the ball bounces.* | *Could you run your eyes over this list?* (=examine it quickly) 5 [I; T] a (of a public vehicle) to travel as arranged: *The trains don't run on Sundays/aren't running today.* | *This bus runs between Manchester and Liverpool/from here to the station.* b to cause (a public vehicle) to travel: *They're running a special train to the football match.* 6 [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] *infml* to go or take in a vehicle: *Can I run you home?* ■ to flow or make something flow 7 [I] (of liquid, sand, etc.) to flow freely: *The tears ran down his face.* | *The salt won't run out if it's too damp.* *The terrible scream made my blood run cold.* (=frightened me) 8 [T] to cause (liquids, sand, etc.) to flow, esp. from a TAP: *Run the water until it gets hot.* [+obj(i)+obj(d)] *Please run me a nice hot bath.* (=fill the bath with water for me) 9 [I] (esp. of a container) to pour out liquid: *Have you left the tap/bath running?* | *The baby's nose is running.* 10 [I] to melt and spread by the action of heat or water: *The butter will run if you put it near the fire.* | *I'm afraid the colours ran when I washed this shirt.* ■ to operate or be in charge of 11 [I; T (on, by)] to (cause to) work or be in operation: *Don't touch the engine while it's running.* | *This machine runs on/by electricity.* | *to run a computer program* | *Can you just run the projector to check that it's working?* | *Despite the shortage of drugs and trained staff, they managed to keep the hospital running.* | *This is an expensive car to run.* (=it costs a lot to keep it working, buy petrol for it, etc.) | (fig.) *Is everything running smoothly at the office?* | *The new computer has arrived but it won't be up and running* (=in full operation) *until next week.* 12 [T] to control (an organization or system); be in charge of and cause to work: *Who's running this company/contest?* | *They run a small hotel.* | *Don't try and run my life!* | *a well-run/badly-run company* | *the state-run national airline* ■ to continue in a particular direction or state 13 [I+adv/prep; not in progressive forms] to pass or continue in the stated direction, way, etc.: *The boundary runs to the south of that forest.* | *The road runs along the river bank/over the mountains/through a tunnel.* 14 [I+adv/prep, esp. for] to have official force during a period of time; remain VALID: *The*

licence runs for a year. | *The insurance has only another month to run.* 15 [I+adv/prep] to continue without interruption: *The play ran* (=was performed regularly) *for two years in New York.* | *The story/poem runs like this ...* | *I can't remember how the rest of Hamlet's speech runs.* | *Good looks run in their family.* (=tend to be passed from the parents to the children) 16 [I (at) usu. in progressive forms] to be or remain at the stated level: *The factory's output is currently running at 50 cars a day.* ■ other meanings 17 [L+adj] to develop or pass into the stated (usu. undesirable) condition: *The well has run dry.* | *Our supply of coal is running short/low.* | *Several people shouted at the chairman; feelings were running high.* (=people were getting excited and angry) | *Since their parents divorced those children have been running wild.* (=allowed to do what they like, without any control) | *Disease is running rife* (=spreading quickly) *in the shanty towns.* 18 [T] to give in a newspaper, magazine, etc.; print: *"The Sunday Times" ran a story about the discovery of Hitler's diaries.* 19 [I (against, for, in)] esp. *AmE* to be or become a CANDIDATE (=a person trying to get elected) in an election; STAND¹ (17): *Johnson didn't run a second time.* | *The Democrats chose Mondale to run against Reagan/to run for President.* 20 [T] to bring into a country illegally and secretly: *to run drugs/guns across the border/into Ireland* —see also RUNNER 21 [I] esp. *AmE* (of a hole in woven cloth) to spread; LADDER: *This hole in my tights is starting to run.* 22 [T usu. in progressive forms] to have an unusually high (body temperature): *Johnny's running a temperature today; he may have flu.* 23 **run a mile** *infml* to run away quickly to avoid someone or something: *She's so shy, I think if a man spoke to her she'd run a mile.* —see also RUNNING, **run amok** (AMOK), **cut and run** (CUT), **run to earth** (EARTH), **run it fine** (FINE), **run the gauntlet** (GAUNTLET), **run one's head against a brick wall** (HEAD), **run rings round** (RING), **run riot** (RIOT), **run to seed** (SEED)

▷ **USAGE Run** is the general word for moving quickly on one's legs. **Race**, **dash**, and **sprint** all suggest running very fast for a short distance: *I raced/dashed/sprinted down the road to catch the bus.* To **jog** is to run in a steady unhurried way as a form of exercise: *She goes jogging every morning.* ◁

■ phrasal verbs

run across sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to find or meet (esp. someone or something pleasant) by chance: *I ran across an old friend in the street.* —compare COME across (1)

run after sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to chase: *My dog was running after a rabbit.* 2 *derog* to try to gain the attention and company of: *If you didn't run after her so much, she might be more interested in you.* 3 *infml* to perform the duties of a servant for: *I can't keep running after you all day!*

run along *phr v* [I often imperative] *infml* (used esp. to a child) to leave; go away: *Run along now, all of you! I'm busy.*

run around *phr v* [I+adv/prep, esp. with] to go about habitually in company (together or with): *Her husband found she'd been running around with another man.* —see also RUN-AROUND

run away *phr v* [I (from)] to go away (as if) to escape: *He ran away to sea/from home at the age of fourteen.* | *They ran away together to get married.* —see also RUNAWAY

run away with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] 1 to take and carry off secretly or illegally: *Someone's run away with all my jewels.* | *He ran away with his boss's wife.* 2 (of ideas, feelings, etc.) to gain control of and carry away: *Don't let your temper/enthusiasm run away with you.* 3 [usu. in negatives] to believe too easily (a false idea): *Don't run away with the idea that you needn't do any work, just because you're working for your father.* 4 *infml* to win (a game or competition) easily

run down *phr v* 1 [T] (run sbdy./sthg. ↔ down) to knock down and hurt (a person or large animal) with a motor vehicle, perhaps intentionally —compare RUN into (1), RUN over (1) 2 [I] (esp. of a clock or an electric BATTERY) to lose power and stop working 3 [I; T] (=run sthg. ↔ down) to (allow to) gradually stop working or be reduced in size; (allow to) DECLINE: *The coal industry is running down/is being run down.* 4 [T] (run sbdy./sthg. ↔ down) *infml* to say rude or unfair things about; DENIGRATE: *She's jealous of your success; that's why she's always running you down.* 5 [T] (run

sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down**) to find by searching: *See if you can run down that book in the library for me.* —see also **RUNDOWN**, **RUN-DOWN**

run sbdy./sthg. **in** *phr v* [T] **1** to bring (esp. an engine) gradually and carefully into full use **2** *infml* (of the police) to catch (a criminal); **ARREST**

run into sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to hit forcefully with one's vehicle: *We went too fast round the corner and ran into a lamppost.* —compare **RUN down** (1), **RUN over** (1) **2** *infml* to meet (someone) by chance: *Guess who I ran into in town today?* **3** to begin to experience (difficulty); get into (a difficult or unpleasant situation): *After a promising start, the company ran into trouble/into debt.* **4** to add up to; reach (a length or amount): *They had debts running into thousands of pounds.*

run sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** to make up, perform, or repeat (a piece of music, poem, speech, etc.) quickly or easily. **2** to print (copies): *I'll run off a hundred of these notices for you.* **3** to get rid of (unwanted weight) by running: *You're too fat; try and run off all those excess pounds.* —see also **RUN-OFF**

run off with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to **RUN away with**
run on *phr v* [I] **1** to continue, esp. beyond the arranged time: *The concert ran on until eleven o'clock.* **2** *infml* to talk without stopping: *He'll run on for hours about his computer if you let him.*

run out *phr v* **1** [I] to come to an end, so that there is no more; be completely used up: *Our food soon ran out.* | *Have you nearly finished? Time is running out.* **2** [I (of)] to use all one's supplies; have no more: *"Can you give me a cigarette?" "Sorry, I've run out."* | *I'm afraid we've run out of petrol.* | *I'm running out of patience.* **3** [T *usu. pass.*] (**run** sbdy. ↔ **out**) (in cricket) to cause (a player who is in the middle of making a **RUN**² (10a)) to have to leave the field by hitting with the ball the **WICKET** towards which he is running

run sbdy. **out of** sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to force to leave (a place): *They ran him out of town.*

run out on sbdy./sthg. also **walk out on** sbdy./sthg. — *phr v* [T] *derog* to leave or desert (someone or something one is responsible for): *He ran out on his wife.*

run over *phr v* **1** [T] (**run** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **over**) (of a vehicle or its driver) to knock down and pass over the top of: *He was run over and killed by a bus.* | *I ran over a rabbit this morning.* —compare **RUN down** (1), **RUN into** (1) **2** [T] (**run over** sthg.) to **RUN through** (1) **3** [I] (of a liquid or its container) to overflow: *The water/bath/bucket ran over.*

run through *phr v* [T] **1** (**run through** sthg.) also **run over**— to repeat for practice: *Let's run through the first scene again.* —see also **RUN-THROUGH** **2** (**run through** sthg.) to read or examine quickly: *I'll just run through this list of figures with you.* **3** (**run through** sthg.) to spend (money) fast and esp. wastefully: *He soon ran through all his father's money.* **4** [*no pass.*] (**run through** sthg.) to be part of; spread right through: *A feeling of sadness runs through his poetry.* **5** (**run** sbdy. **through**) *esp. lit* to push one's sword right through

run to sthg. *phr v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *esp. BrE* to be or have enough to pay for: *My wages won't run to a car/to buying a car.*

run sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to raise (a flag): *They ran up the national flag on the queen's birthday.* **2** to cause oneself to have (bills or debts): *She ran up a large phone bill.* **3** to make quickly, esp. by sewing: *I ran this dress up in one evening.* —see also **RUN-UP**

run up against sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to meet or be forced to deal with (something difficult): *We ran up against some unexpected opposition.*

run² *n* **1** [C] an act of running: *She usually goes for a run/takes the dog for a run before breakfast.* | *A cross-country run is a run across the fields.* | *a five-mile run* **2** [S] a short journey in a car, esp. for pleasure: *Let's go for a run in the car.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a journey of the stated kind made regularly by a train, ship, **TRUCK**, etc.: *It's a 55-minute run from London to Brighton.* | *This old ferry used to be on the Felixstowe to Stockholm run.* **4** [C] a continuous set of performances of a play, film, etc.: *The play had a run of three months.* **5** [S+of] a continuous set of similar events; **SEQUENCE**: *I've had a run of bad luck recently.* (=lots of unlucky things have happened to me) **6** [*the* (of)] the usual or average sort: *She's different from the common/general run of students.* —see also **RUN-OF-THE-MILL** **7** [S+on] a an eager demand: *There's*

been a big run on ice cream during this hot weather. **b** a general desire to sell money or to take one's money out: *The run on the pound forced the government to act.* | *a run on the bank* **8** [*the+of*] the freedom to visit or use (a place): *He's given our children the run of his garden.* | *I have the run of his extensive library.* **9** [C] an enclosed but usu. uncovered area where animals are kept: *a chicken run* | *a sheep run* **10** [C] a point won **a** in cricket, by two players running from one **WICKET** to the other, passing each other on the way: *England scored/made 301 runs.* **b** in **BASEBALL**, by a player reaching the home base safely: *a home run* **11** [C] a sloping course for a downhill sport: *a ski run* **12** [C] (in card games) a set of cards dealt to a person, in which the numbers on all the cards follow on from each other —compare **FLUSH**⁵ **13** [C] (in music) a set of notes played or sung quickly up or down the **SCALE**¹ (5) without a break **14** [C] *AmE* for **LADDER**¹ (2): *I've got a run in my new panty hose.* **15 a** (good) **run for one's money** *infml* a plenty of opposition in a competition: *They may be a better team than us, but we'll give them a run for their money.* **b** good or satisfactory results, treatment, etc., (esp. in return for one's time, money or effort): *He lived to be 92, so I think he had a good run for his money.* **16 at a run** running: *She left the house at a run.* **17 in the 'long run** after a long period; in the end: *It'll be cheaper in the long run to use real leather because it will last longer.* **18 in the 'short run** for the near future: *Of course plastic's cheaper than leather in the short run, but it won't last as long.* **19 on the run** trying to escape or hide, esp. from the police: *The escaped murderer has been on the run for three weeks.* —see also **RUNS**, **DUMMY RUN**, **FUN RUN**, **MILK RUN**, **TRIAL RUN**

run-a-bout /'rʌnəbaʊt/ *n infml* a small light car

run-a-round /'rʌnəraʊnd/ *n* [*the*] *infml* delaying or deceiving treatment: *They've been giving me the run-around for six months now; they just won't give me a straight answer to a straight question.* | *He's been giving his wife the run-around.* (=making love to another woman) —see also **RUN around**

run-a-way¹ /'rʌnəweɪ/ *adj* [A] **1** out of control: *a runaway horse/train* | *We're suffering from runaway inflation.* **2** having run away: *a runaway child* **3** done by running away: *a runaway marriage*

runaway² *n* a person or animal that has run away —see also **RUN away**

Run-cle /'rʌnsi/, **Ro-bert** /'rɒbət||'rɑ:bərt/ (1921–) a minister of the church who was **ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY** and head of the Anglican church from 1980 to 1990

run-down /'rʌndaʊn/ *n* **1** [*the*] **S** (of) the (process of running something down (**RUN down** (3)): *the phased run-down of the steel industry* **2** [C (on)] *infml* a detailed report of a set of events: *I want a complete rundown on everything that happened while I was away.*

run-down /'rʌndaʊn/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a place) old and broken or in bad condition; **DILAPIDATED**: *an old run-down hotel* **2** [F] (of a person) tired and weak and in poor health: *You need a holiday; you look a bit run-down.*

rune /ru:n/ *n* **1** any of the letters of an alphabet cut on stone, wood, etc., once used by the peoples of Northern Europe **2** a magic charm written or spoken mysteriously —**runic** *adj*: *the runic alphabet*

rung¹ /rʌŋ/ *past participle* of **RING**

rung² *n* **1** any of the cross-bars that form the steps of a ladder: *a broken rung* | (fig.) *The director made his son start on the bottom/first rung of the ladder* (=the lowest level in the organization) *as an office boy.* **2** a bar like this between the legs of a chair

run-in /'rʌnɪn/ *n infml* a quarrel or disagreement, esp. with the police or an official body: *to have a run-in with the law*

run-nel /'rʌnl/ *n esp. lit* a small stream

run-ner /'rʌnə/ *n* **1 a** a person or animal that runs, esp. **a** in a race or as a sport: *Bannister was the first runner to achieve the four-minute mile.* | *a long-distance runner* | *There are six runners* (=horses that will run) *in the 3.30 at Epsom.* | *the runner at first base* **b** (esp. in former times) to carry messages: *The general sent a runner from Marathon to Athens to carry the news.* **2** (*usu. in comb.*) someone who **SMUGGLES** the stated goods (=takes them illegally into a country): *a dope-runner* **3** either of the two thin blades on which a **SLEDGE** slides over the snow or the single blade on which a **SKATE** slides over the ice **4**

the supporting bars on which a shelf, drawer, etc. slides
5 any of the stems with which a plant like the STRAWBERRY spreads itself along the ground —see also FRONT-RUNNER, RUNNERS

runner bean /ˌrʌnər ˈbiːn/ *BrE* || **string bean** *AmE*— *n* a climbing bean with long green PODS (=seed containers) which are used as food —see picture at VEGETABLE

run-ners /ˈrʌnəz/ || -ərz/ also **trainers** *BrE* || **running shoes** *AmE*— *n* [P] a pair of shoes for running in or for other sports

runner-up /ˌrʌnər ʌp/ || -ʌp/ *n* **runners-up** or **runner-ups** the person or team that comes second in a race or competition

run-ning¹ /ˈrʌnɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the act or sport of running **2** direction; control: *He left the running of the company in the hands of his son.* **3** in/out of the running with some/no hope of winning: *Charles is still in the running for the directorship/as a possible director.* **4** make the running *BrE* to set the speed at which a race is run, at which a relationship develops, etc.; set a standard or be a leader: *If you want to be friends with her you'll have to make (all) the running.*

running² *adj* [A] **1** (of water) a flowing: *These fish prefer to live in running water.* **b** flowing from TAPS: *This hotel has hot and cold running water in every room.* **2** a continuing over a long period: *For five years we had a running battle with the council over who was responsible for repairing the road.* **b** made during a process or activity: *a running commentary on the football match* (=describing it as it happens) | *Keep a running total of your expenses as you go along.* | *He couldn't stop to overhaul the engine properly, so he just made a few running repairs.* (=so as to be able to finish his journey) **3** for or concerned with running as a sport: *running shoes* | *a running track* **4** giving out PUS (=liquid matter) from the body: *a running sore* —compare RUNNY (2) **5** in 'running order (of a machine) working properly —see also RUN¹ (11)

running³ *adv* (after a plural noun with a number) one after the other without a break; in a row: *She won the prize three times running.* | *For the third year running the company has made a big loss.*

running costs /ˌrʌnɪŋ ˈkɒsts/ || -kɒsts/ *n* [P] the amount of money needed for operating a business or other activity: *The running costs of the helpline are met by donations.* | *We're trying to reduce our running costs.*

running jump /ˌrʌnɪŋ ˈdʒʌmp/ || -dʒʌmp/ *n* **1** a jump made by running to the point at which one takes off **2** take a running jump [often imperative] *infml* to go away and stop being annoying: *If he asks you any more personal questions, tell him to take a running jump.*

running mate /ˌrʌnɪŋ ˈmeɪt/ || -meɪt/ *n* (in US politics) a person with whom another is trying to get elected to a pair of political positions of greater and less importance, esp. those of President and Vice-President: *Reagan has yet to choose his running mate.*

run-ny /ˈrʌni/ *adj infml* **1** in a more liquid form than is usual or expected: *runny butter* **2** (of the nose or eyes) producing liquid, as when one has a cold: *She wiped the baby's runny nose.* —compare RUNNING² (5)

Run-ny-mede /ˈrʌnɪmiːd/ a field near the River Thames at Egham, S England, where King John is said to have signed the Magna Carta in 1215 —see MAGNA CARTA

run-off /ˌrʌn ɒf/ || -ɒf/ *n* **1** [C] a last race or competition to decide the winner, because two or more people have won an equal number of points, races, etc. —compare PLAY-OFF; see also RUN OFF **2** [U] liquid which flows off or from (something): *nitrogen-rich run-off from agricultural land* **3** run-off election *AmE* a state election held if in the first election no person got more than half of the vote. The two people with most votes compete against each other to be elected.

run-of-the-mill /ˌrʌn ɒv ðə ˈmɪl/ || -ɒv ðə ˈmɪl/ *adj usu. derog* ordinary; not special in any way: *a run-of-the-mill office job/performance* —see also RUN² (6)

run-on sen-tence /ˌrʌn ɒn ˈsen-tens/ || -ɒn ˈsen-tens/ *n* *AmE* a sentence that contains too many CLAUSES to be read or understood easily and which is better made into two or more sentences

runs /rʌnz/ || -trɒts/ *n* [the+P] *infml* for DIARRHOEA

runt /rʌnt/ *n* **1** a small badly developed animal, esp. the smallest of a set of baby pigs **2** *derog* a small unpleasant person

run-through /ˌrʌn ˈθruː/ || -θruː/ *n* an act of running through something for practice (**RUN through**): *We need one more run-through before the performance.*

run-up /ˌrʌn ʌp/ || -ʌp/ *n* *esp. BrE* **1** [C] (in sports) an act or distance of running in order to gain enough speed for a particular action: *a bowler's run-up* **2** [the+(to)] (the activities in) the period of time leading up to an event: *During the run-up to the election the polls showed the Democrats in the lead.* **3** [C] *AmE* a sudden increase

run-way /ˌrʌn weɪ/ || -weɪ/ *n* an area with a specially prepared hard surface, on which aircraft land and take off —compare AIRSTRIP

Run-yon /ˈrʌnjən/ || -dɪmən/ (1884–1946) an American writer of stories about GANGSTERS. Runyon's characters talk and act in a rough and violent way, and people will say that someone is behaving or talking like someone out of Damon Runyon if they are acting like this.

ru-pee /ruːˈpiː/ || -piː/ *n* (a note or coin worth) a unit of money in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and some other countries

Ru-pert Bear /ˌruːpət ˈbeə/ || -pərt-/ (in Britain) a little bear dressed in a red jumper and yellow checked trousers and a SCARF, who is the main character in a popular collection of children's stories by Mary Tourtel

rup-ture¹ /ˈrʌptʃə/ || -tʃə/ *n* **1** [C;U] *tech* or *fml* (a) sudden breaking apart or bursting: *the rupture of a blood vessel* | (fig.) *It is sad to see the rupture of friendly relations between our two countries.* **2** [C] a lump in the front wall of the stomach; HERNIA

rupture² *v tech* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) break or burst: *They reported that the pipeline had ruptured.* **2** [T] to cause (oneself) to have a RUPTURE¹ (2): *He ruptured himself lifting a heavy weight.*

ru-ral /ˈruərəl/ || -rəl/ *adj* of or like the COUNTRYSIDE; concerning country or village life: *Rural bus services are often inadequate.* | *a peaceful rural setting* | *rural areas* —opposite **urban**; compare RUSTIC¹ (1)

rural free de-liv-er-y /ˌruərəl ˈfriː ˈdeɪvərɪ/ || -deɪvərɪ/ *n* *AmE* RFD

Ru-ri-ta-ni-an /ˌruəriˈteɪniən/ || -teɪniən/ *adj* typical of Ruritania, an imaginary small European kingdom of former times, full of exciting but clearly unreal adventures

ruse /ruːz/ || ruːs, ruːz/ *n* a trick to deceive an opponent

rush¹ /rʌʃ/ || -ʃ/ *v* **1** [I+adv/prep; T+obj+adv/prep] to (cause to) go or move suddenly and with great speed or violence: *They rushed up the stairs/out into the street/towards the door.* | *The fire engine rushed past us as we waited at the traffic lights.* | *Doctors and medical supplies were rushed to the scene of the accident.* | *We'll try to rush your order through* (=deal with it especially quickly) *before Saturday.* **2** [I;T (into)] to (cause or force to) hurry or act (too) quickly: *There's plenty of time; we needn't rush.* | *Don't rush into marriage; you might regret it later.* | *You shouldn't rush this sort of work.* | *Don't rush your breakfast; you'll get indigestion.* **3** [T (into)] to force (someone) to act or decide hastily: *Don't rush me; let me think about it.* | *I was rushed into buying these fur boots.* **4** [T] to attack suddenly and all together: *We rushed the guards and captured their guns.* **5** [I;T] (in FOOTBALL³) to carry the ball forward: *The home team rushed for seven yards in the last play.* **6** [T] *AmE* a to entertain someone or a group of people before deciding who may become a member of a FRATERNITY or SORORITY **b** to go to parties or events of a sorority or fraternity in order to try to become a member: *Which fraternity are you going to rush?* **7** be rushed off one's feet to be so busy that one has no time to stop or rest

rush² *n* **1** [C] a sudden rapid and often violent movement: *There was a rush for* (=towards) *the exits when the film ended.* | *When the new space programme was agreed, there was a big rush for the valuable government contracts.* **2** [S;U] (need for) (too much) hurrying: *We needn't leave yet; what's all the rush?* | *There's no rush.* | *I've got to write a report for my boss before tomorrow; it'll be a bit of a rush job.* (=I haven't enough time to do it properly) **3** [U] great activity and excitement: *I hate shopping during the Christmas rush when the shops are crowded.* **4** [S+on/for/to-v] a sudden great demand: *There's been a rush on/a rush for/a rush to get tickets for the big football game.* **5** *AmE sl* a sudden strong feeling of excitement —see also GOLD RUSH **6** [U] *AmE* a period of time at American colleges during which students who wish to join fraternities (FRATERNITY) or sororities (SORORITY)

must attend their many social activities in order to be considered for membership. In the past, rush has involved too much alcoholic drinking, leading to accidents. Now **dry rush** (=no alcohol) is popular at many colleges.

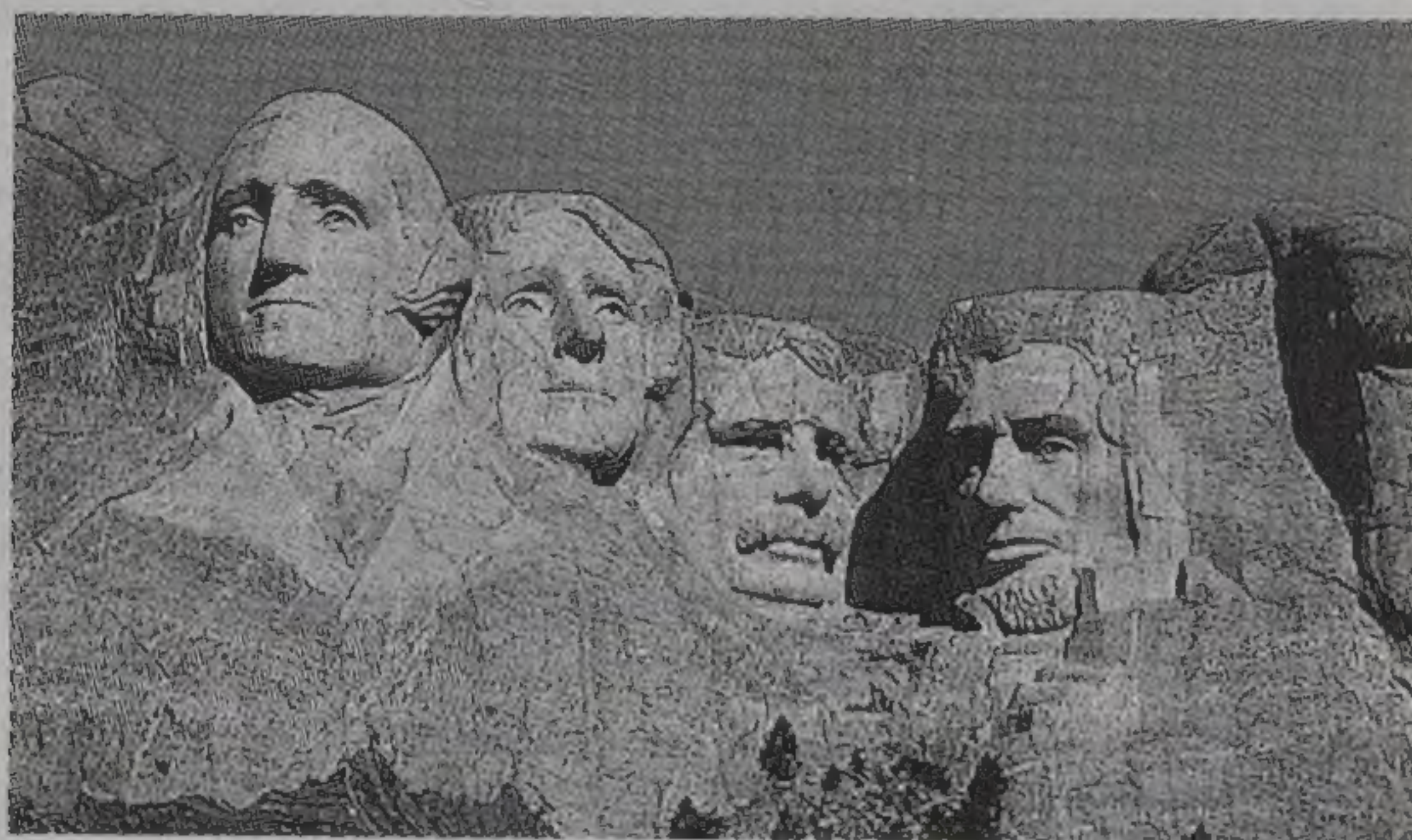
rush³ *n* a grasslike water plant whose long thin hollow stems are often dried and made into mats, baskets, and the seats of chairs: *a rush mat* — *~y adj*

rush-es /'rʌʃɪz/ also **dailies** *AmE* — *n* [P] (in film-making) the first prints of a film before it has been edited (EDIT): *Most directors like to see the rushes of the previous day's shooting.*

rush hour /'rʌʃaʊə/ also **peak hour**, **peak time** *BrE* — *n* [C;U] either of the two periods in the day (usu. longer than an hour) when people are travelling to and from work in a city and the streets are crowded. The images people have of rush hour is of a lot of tired unsmiling faces crowded into buses and trains and long lines of cars trying to get to or from work as fast as possible: *I like to get to work before the rush hour.* | *rush hour traffic* | *There's a train every half hour, or every 20 minutes at peak time.*

rush-light /'rʌʃlaɪt/ *n* a kind of candle made by dipping the inside part of a RUSH³ into melted fat, used esp. in former times

Mount Rushmore



Rush-more /'rʌʃmɔːr/, **Mount** also **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** *fml* — *n* a mountain face in South Dakota which has been carved (CARVE) into the faces of four US presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt

rush week /'rʌʃwiːk/ *n* *AmE* the week, usu. in the autumn, in which fraternities (FRATERNITY) and sororities (SORORITY) hold parties and other events to attract new members

rusk /rʌsk/ *n* *esp. BrE* a hard dry BISCUIT for babies, often made from a piece of bread baked hard

Rus-sell /'rʌsəl/, **Ber-trand** /'bɜːtrænd/ || 'bɜːr-/ (1872–1970) a British PHILOSOPHER and MATHEMATICIAN, born the 3rd Earl Russell, who for most of his life also fought for the cause of peace. He received the NOBEL PRIZE for literature in 1950.

Russell, Charles (1864–1926) an American who painted scenes of COWBOYS and of NATIVE AMERICANS

Russell, Ken (1927–) a film director best known for DOCUMENTARY films and for the film *Women in Love*

rus-set /'rʌsɪt/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* of a reddish brown or golden brown colour — **russet** *adj*

Rus-sia /'rʌʃə/ also **the Russian Fed-er-a-tion** /'rʌʃiən/ *fml* — a country in E Europe stretching from the far North and the Arctic to the Black Sea in S; capital Moscow; population 147,350,000 (1989). It is part of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which was formerly the USSR. — see CIS, **from Russia with love** (FROM)

Rus-sian /'rʌʃən/ *n* 1 [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Russia 2 [U] the language of Russia — **Russian** *adj*

Russian dolls /'rʌʃiən/ *n* [P] a Russian toy which is a set of wooden figures of a woman of different sizes, the largest one having all the others inside

Russian Or-tho-dox Church /'rʌʃiən/ *[the]* the leading Russian Christian church — **Russian Orthodox** *adj*

Russian Rev-o-lu-tion /'rʌʃiən/ *[the]* the events of 1917, when the Russian people overthrew (OVERTHROW) their TSAR and then a government before the COMMUNISTS took over under the leadership of Lenin

Russian dolls



Russian rou-lette /'rʌʃiən/ *n* [U] a dangerous game in which one shoots at one's own head a gun with a bullet in only one of the CHAMBERS (=set of spaces for bullets), without knowing whether it will fire or not

Russo- see WORD FORMATION

rust¹ /rʌst/ *n* [U] 1 the reddish brown surface that forms on iron and some other metals when they are attacked by water and air: *patches of rust on the bicycle frame* | *a tin of rust remover* | *rust-coloured upholstery* 2 a plant disease causing reddish brown spots: *wheat rust* — see also RUSTPROOF, RUSTY

rust² *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become covered with rust: *Stainless steel does not rust.* | *The rain will rust the iron roof.*

rust away *phr v* [I;T] (=rust sthg. ↔ away) to (cause to) disappear through the action of rust: *The ancient lock had completely rusted away so the door opened easily.*

Rust Belt /'rʌst/ *AmE* an area in the northern US consisting of states which are suffering economically because their large industries, esp. the steel and car industries, have become smaller or stopped doing business: *This race will be all over by Illinois, one of the two big Rust Belt primaries (Michigan is the other) held on March 17.*

rus-tic¹ /'rʌstɪk/ *adj* 1 often *apprec* typical of the country, esp. in being simple and unspoiled by modern developments: *The village has a certain rustic charm.* — compare RURAL 2 [A] (of furniture and wooden objects) roughly made out of wood with its BARK (=outer skin) left on: *a rustic garden seat* — *~ity* /rʌ'stɪsɪti/ *n* [U]

rustic² *n* *old-fash*, often *derog* a person from the country, esp. a farm worker

rus-tic-ate /'rʌstɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *BrE fml* to send (a student) away from university for a period as a punishment

rus-tle¹ /'rʌsl/ *v* 1 [I;T] to (cause to) make slight sounds like paper, dry leaves, silk, etc., moving or being rubbed together: *Her long silk skirt rustled as she walked.* | *Stop rustling that newspaper!* 2 [T] *esp. AmE* to steal (cattle or horses that are left loose in open country)

rustle sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to provide or find quickly: *I'll try and rustle up something for you to eat.*

rustle² *n* [S] a sound of rustling: *a rustle of leaves*

rus-tler /'rʌslə/ *n* *esp. AmE* a cattle thief; person who rustles cattle

rust-proof /'rʌstpruːf/ *adj* (of metal) protected from RUST by special treatment — **rustproof** *v* [T]

rust-y /'rʌsti/ *adj* 1 (of metal) covered with RUST: *a rusty nail* 2 [F] *infml* (of one's knowledge of a subject, language, etc.) mostly forgotten: *My French is a bit rusty.* 3 [F] *infml* unable to perform well because of lack of recent practice: *I agreed to play in the cricket match, although I'm very rusty.* 4 *old-fash* (of black cloth) having become brown with age — **-iness** *n* [U]

rut¹ /rʌt/ *n* 1 [C] a deep narrow track left in soft ground by a wheel: *The farm carts have worn ruts in the lane.* 2 [S] a fixed and dull way of life: *I felt I was getting into a rut/stuck in a rut, so I decided to change my job.* See picture on page 1159

rut² *v* -**tt-** [T] to form ruts in: *the rutted surface of the road*

rut³ *n* [(the) U] *tech* (the season of) sexual excitement in an animal, esp. a male deer

rut⁴ *v* -**tt-** [I] *tech* (of an animal, esp. a male deer) to be in a state of sexual excitement: *rutting stags*

ru-ta-ba-ga /'rʌtə'beɪgə/ *n* *AmE* for SWEDE

Ruth /ruːθ/, **Babe** (1895–1948) an American BASEBALL

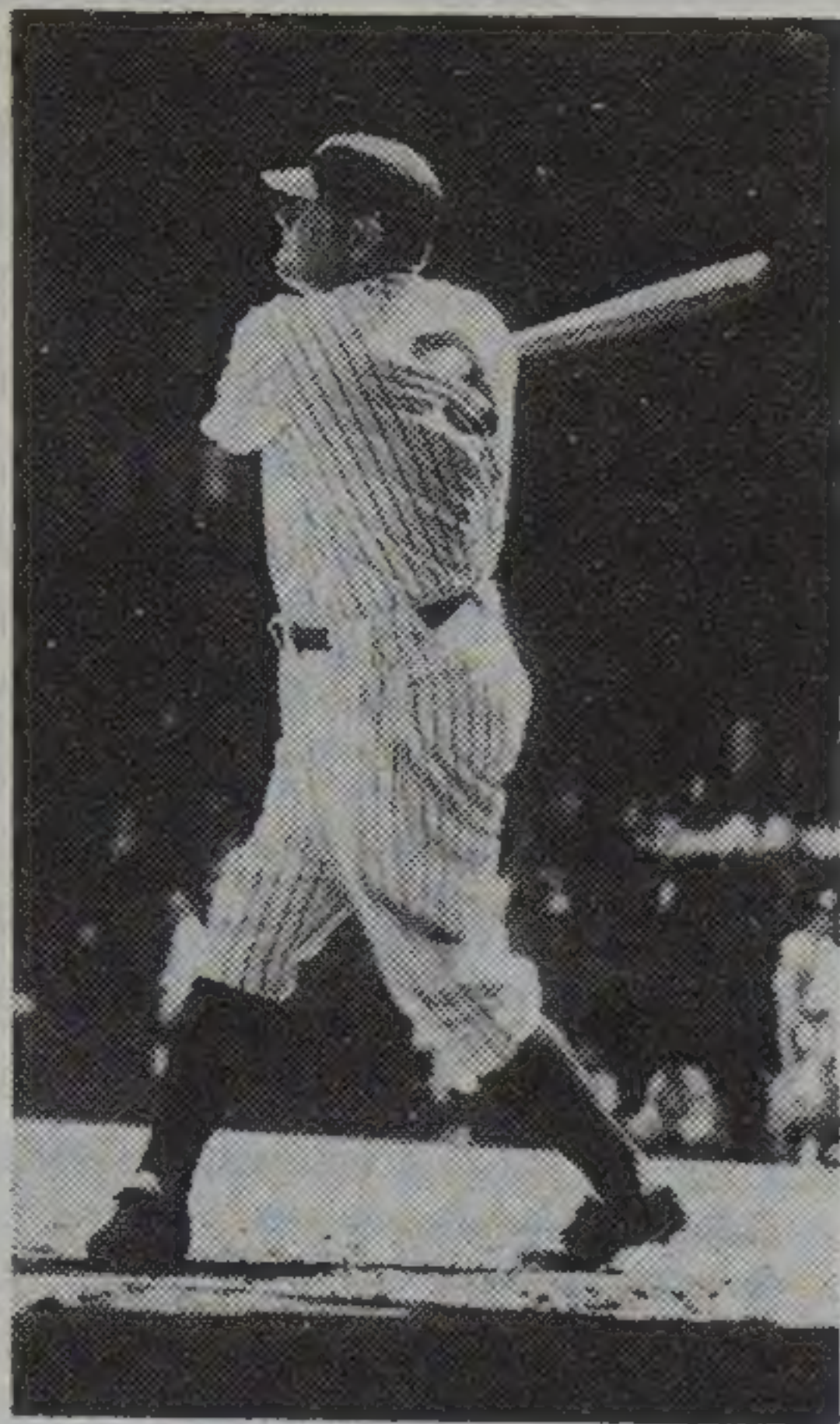
player, the most famous in the game's history, who set HOME RUN records which stood for almost 40 years, and was known as the Sultan of Swat

Ruth, Doctor see DOCTOR RUTH

Ruth·er·ford /'rʌðəfəd/ -ðərfəd/, **Er·nest** /'ɜːnɪst/ 'ɜːr-/ (1871–1937) a British scientist who suggested a THEORY about the changes made in atoms by RADIOACTIVITY. He was the first to split the atom.

Rutherford, Dame Margaret (1892–1972) an English actress famous for playing EC-CENTRIC old ladies, and known esp. for playing the Agatha Christie character, Miss Marple

Babe Ruth



ruth·less /'ruːθləs/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) showing no human feelings; without pity or forgiveness: *The enemy killed women and children with ruthless cruelty.* **2** not always derog firm in taking unpleasant decisions: *We'll have to be ruthless if we want to eliminate unnecessary waste.* — ~ly *adv* — ~ness *n* [U]

Rut·land /'rʌtlənd/ the smallest English COUNTY until 1974, when it became part of Leicestershire

RV /,ɑː 'viːz/, ɑːr-/ *n* AmE see RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

Rw·an·da /ru'ændə/ -'ɑːn-/ a country in E central Africa bordered by Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi; capital: Kigali; population 6,989,000 (1989) — **Rwandan** *n, adj*

Rx. *n* AmE written abbrev. for PRESCRIPTION

Ry·an /'raɪən/, **No·lan** /'nəʊlən/ (1947–) a BASEBALL player known for his pitching (PITCH¹ (9))

Ry·der Cup /'raɪdə ,kʌp/-dər-/ [*the*] a GOLF competition between the best players in Europe and the US, held every other year

rye /raɪ/ *n* [U] a grass plant grown in cold countries for its grain, which is used esp. for making flour: *rye bread* | *rye whisky* — see picture at CEREAL

